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The Canadian Jewish news

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New missile crisis increases tensions

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

The Middle East was gripped by tension and uncertainty last week as Syria and Israel were plunged into what looked like another missile crisis.

In Washington, a state department spokesman urged both nations to exercise restraint. He said the U.S. opposed any "escalation of tensions in the region or resort to military force."

The crisis began about one month ago, after the Israeli air force shot down two Syrian MIG-23s over Syria, and Syria promptly installed three clusters of fixed SAM-2 surface-to-surface missiles, as well as SAM-6 and SAM-8 missile batteries, near the Lebanese border.

Israel, claiming that the missiles posed a threat to its routine intelligence-gathering flights over Syrian-controlled eastern Lebanon, secretly conveyed the information to the U.S. Richard Murphy, the American assistant secretary of state, went to Damascus in an effort to convince Syria to dismantle the missile batteries, but he failed.

In the wake of the abortive Murphy mission, Gen. Moshe Levy, Israel's chief of staff publicly warned Syria that the Israeli government viewed the missile deployment as a potential threat to its reconnaissance flights over Lebanon to monitor terrorist activity.

The brewing crisis seemed to escalate on Dec. 20 as The Canadian Jewish News went to press early. Israel's military command said the Syrians had moved their missiles closer to Lebanon, and Prime Minister Shimon Peres declared Syria was preparing for a confrontation with Israel.

As he put it in a speech reported by Israel radio: "Syria is seeking a confrontation with Israel, and does not want to talk peace. Israel wants neither confrontation nor an escalation."

Despite the growing dimensions of the crisis, Israel left the definite impression it was not interested in armed conflict with Syria.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said, "There is no political reason now to justify an Israeli initiative to go to war." Prime Minister Peres, in an earlier statement, noted that Syria continued to respect its agreements — written and unwritten — with Israel.

In 1974, Israel and Syria signed an American-engineered disengagement agreement on the Golan Heights. A couple of years later, following Syria's intervention in the Lebanese civil war, Israel and Syria reached an informal understanding, through the good offices of the U.S., on spheres of influence (or so-called "red lines") in Lebanon. As part of it, Syria apparently acquiesced to Israeli flights over Lebanon.

That modus vivendi nearly broke down in the spring of 1981, when Israel shot down two Syrian helicopters over Lebanon in support of Lebanese Christian forces battling the Syrian army. As a result of the incident, Syria moved SAM-5s into the Bekaa Valley, threatening

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Protecting cultural, religious heritage

WJC holds talks with Poles

WARSAW (JTA) — The nature and extent of Jewish claims regarding the protection and restoration of the 1,000-year-old Polish-Jewish cultural and religious heritage was defined here in negotiations between the Polish government and an 8-member Jewish delegation headed by World Jewish Congress president Edgar Bronfman, it was announced here last week.

The negotiations followed a 3-day official visit to Warsaw by the Jewish delegation.

"The agenda has been defined and agreement on all but the most technical of points has been reached," said Kalman Sultanik, WJC vice-president.

In a release here, the official Polish press agency described the negotiated items as envisaging "the problems of maintenance and display of religious objects related to Mosaic faith, archives on the life of Jews in Poland, commemoration of sites of Nazi mass crimes committed against Jews, the Jewish pavilion at the Auschwitz Museum, Jewish cemeteries and other issues."

The Jewish delegation represented the so-called Tripartite Commission, which was formed to coordinate representations to the Polish authorities. The commission includes the WJC and two of its affiliated bodies which are competent to deal with the issues involved — the World Federation of Polish Jews and the World Federation of Jewish Fighters, Partisans and Camp Inmates. Stephen Grayek, who headed a 3-member delegation from Israel, represented the latter two bodies.

On the Polish side, negotiations were headed by the minister for religious affairs, Adam Lopatka, and included representatives of the ministry of culture and arts; ministry of labor, wages and social affairs; ministry of construction, regional planning, and municipal economy; the main board of state archives; and the Council for Protection of Monuments to Struggle and Martyrdom.

Sultanik said that a 6-hour marathon negotiating session encompassed the following points:

- The transfer of sacred Jewish objects, once the property of Jewish communities in Poland, for use in Israel and other Jewish communities outside of Poland for their preservation and exhibition as memorabilia of the Jewry of Poland.
- Assurance for the continuance and restoration of existing Jewish cemeteries and agreement to erect memorials in places of mass burials.
- Assurance for the permanent and improved functioning of the Jewish pavilion in Auschwitz.
- Agreement for the continuation of access to archives, in order to receive material regarding the life of Polish Jews, and also to receive documentation for archives in Israel and to Jewish institutions abroad.
- Insuring that survivors of the Holocaust, who had acquired vested pension or similar social security entitlements, under the Polish pension law of 1968, should not be deprived of their benefits.
- Discussion regarding the subject of Jewish communal property which is presently in the use of various institutions.

According to WJC secretary-general Israel Singer, who alone with executive director Elan Steinberg participated in the delegation, a 2-hour meeting with Polish leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski dealt with "wide-ranging political agenda involving discussions of a general character as well as those relating to

[Cont'd. on page 12]

Recovery plan shows results

JERUSALEM (JTA) — **The government's economic recovery plan is beginning to show results. It has already had a strong impact on inflation, exports are up, imports are down and there is renewed public confidence in the economy overall, according to a background report released by the Treasury.**

The inflation rate is declining for the first time in recent years, the report noted. The monthly rate is down from a 15% average to an average of 3-4%. Last month the inflation rate increased by just one-half of 1%.

Private consumption is down by 1.1% for the first half of 1985, the Treasury says, and is expected to drop by 3% when the year ends.

The government has pared its budget. Subsidies for basic foods and services have been cut. Vacant jobs have not been filled.

Fuel and electricity prices have gone down for the first time in 20 years. The 4% reduction in the cost of fuel may lead to a $60 million increase in the gross national product as a result of lower production costs.

Imports have declined 6%, mainly appliances and luxury goods, the Treasury reported. Exports are up by 7% this year. In October, industrial exports were 31.7% higher than in October of the previous year.

The controversial $300 per capita travel tax imposed during the summer months has had spectacular results, leading to substantial savings of foreign currency. According to the Treasury report, 48% fewer Israelis went abroad in July than in July, 1984. This translates into an annual figure of 288,400 fewer Israelis spending badly needed dollars overseas this year.

PLEDGES SUPPORT

President Ronald Reagan met during Chanukah with members of the American Friends of Lubavitch to demonstrate his support of the free expression of Chanukah. The President was presented with a menorah, similar to the National Menorah situated in Washington's Lafayette Park. Seen with the President from left to right are Rabbis Abraham Shemtov, Moshe Herson, Israel Shmotkin, Yoseff Groner, Moshe Feller.

Israel, Egypt set to hold 3rd round of Taba talks

By DAVID LANDAU

JERUSALEM (JTA) — As The CJN went to press last week, Israel's chief negotiators in the Taba border dispute with Egypt were scheduled to fly to Cairo for the third round of talks since negotiations were resumed earlier this month.

Their task will be to draft, with the Egyptians, a paper enumerating the areas of agreement reached so far, it was disclosed here after a private meeting between Premier Shimon Perez and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

The makings of an accord seem to have emerged from the previous round of talks, held two weeks ago at Herzliya. Israel's negotiators, Gen. Avraham Tamir, director-general of the Prime Minister's office, and David Kimche, director-general of the foreign ministry, are said to have reached agreement with the Egyptians on a compromise method to settle the dispute.

According to Peres' aides, "impressive progress" was made at Herzliya. But the differences between Labor and Likud are as sharp as ever. Shamir and his aides, in fact, have angrily denied the optimistic assessment by Peres' people. Laborites for their part are urging Peres to force the issue and a decisive showdown between the unity coalition partners may be imminent, according to observers.

The conflict from the outset has been over method. Likud insists that the Taba border dispute be settled through conciliation. The Egyptians demand binding arbitration and Peres and his Labor Party associates are inclined to yield to Cairo on this.

Their views is that Israel's claim is sufficently strong to risk arbitration and that once the Taba dispute is behind them, overall relations with Egypt will improve significantly and the stalled process of normalization can be resumed. Cairo has indicated that this indeed would be the case.

The nature of the compromise reached at Herzliya has not been made public. Highly placed sources said the Israeli and Egyptian teams agreed to a form of binding conciliation without using the word conciliation to which Egypt objects.

According to those sources, the dispute would be put to arbitration but the arbitrators would be asked to consider a "middle point" between the positions of each side rather than decide in favor of one or the other. The arbitrators would be an Israeli, an Egyptian and a third party selected by the other two.

Leading figures in the Labor Party insist that the Herzliya formula be applied and if Likud balks, they would let the coalition collapse. The matter is due to come before the inner cabinet (five Labor and five Likud ministers) possibly this week.

The last time it did, the inner cabinet deadlocked on party lines. This time, Laborites say they will try to woo one of two Likud ministers to their point of view. They are said to have in mind Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, a Likud Liberal, and Deputy Premier and Housing Minister David Levy, of Likud's Herut wing.

Holiday schedule

Because of the holidays, this issue of The CJN was printed early Friday, Dec. 20. Under normal circumstances we would have printed on Monday, Dec. 23.

We printed early so that the issue could be in the mail well before the 2-day holiday.

We hope to resume normal publishing schedules right after the holiday season. But we want to point out that the editorial deadline for the Jan. 9 issue is Monday, Dec. 30. After that, it should be back to normal.

Halley's comet has Jewish angle

TEL AVIV (JTA) — **It was inevitable that someone would find the Jewish angle in Halley's comet, now making its once-in-a-lifetime appearance in our skies.**

A comet which appears every 70 years is mentioned in the Talmud.

The Jewish angle was mentioned by Rabbi Zvi Ilani, of the religious-oriented Bar-Ilan University, in Ramat Gan, during an Israel radio program on the comet.

The Talmud's Seder Nezikin, section Horayoth, tells that Rabban Gamliel, on a journey to Rome in the year 35, was accompanied by Rabbi Yehoshua Ben Hananya, sailing in a ship which was beset by storms and went off course owing to faulty navigation.

Gamliel had taken only bread with him, but Yehoshua had also taken a reserve supply of flour, which he shared with his companion when Gamliel's bread ran out because of the delays.

"Did you know that we should be so much delayed that you brought flour with you," the Talmud quoted Gamliel as asking.

Yeshoshua replied: "A certain star rises once in 70 years and leads the sailors astray, and I suspected it might rise and lead us astray."

World-National

Visting rabbi from S. Africa presents ideas

By
RABBI W. GUNTHER PLAUT

Jews have been in South Africa for a long time. Organized communities date back to the beginning of the 19th century, the first arrivals coming from Britain and Germany. After the Russian pogroms in the 1880s, Eastern Europe supplied the major source of Jewish immigration, with Lithuanians predominating. South Africa become, in the Jewish world, "Litvak" country.

Rabbi Plaut

That denoted many things: intense Jewish loyalty, Zionism, and a splendid record of generous giving. South Africa has been, and still is, a great Jewish community which numbers somewhat less than 120,000 by the latest count, comparable to the size of Toronto Jewry. In all respects, therefore, South Africa would have to be considered an ideal country in which to live — except, as everyone knows, it isn't.

For its history bespeaks also the oppression of the native population. A minority of Whites have the power, wealth and resources to impose their will on the rest of the population, Blacks and Coloreds alike. That has meant, and still means, apartheid, an immoral system which gives a minority perpetual lordship over the rest and does so on racial grounds, something that Hitler made the foundation of his evil empire.

No panic

Where are the Jews in the present turmoil? What do they think, what is their vision of the future? Are they, objectively seen, an endangered species? Rabbi Norman T. Mendell, rabbi of Johannesburg's Temple Emanuel, visited Toronto to speak of these matters. He attracted a sizeable audience, many former South Africans among them. Most, but not all of them, were Jews.

I am glad to report that the rabbi was forthright, clear, and did not waffle on any question put to him. He asserted that as a Jew he was, and had to be, unalterably opposed to apartheid, and that he constantly stressed this view from his pulpit and other platforms. The majority of Jews, he said, share his view, although there is no clearcut vision of what consequences to draw from this conviction.

But whenever Jews get together socially, he said, emigration in general and aliya in particular form the centre of the discussion. South Africa thus is a classic example of continued Jewish insecurity in the Diaspora. There is no panic, however, at least not yet, the rabbi asserted. And meanwhile Jews in other parts of the world are wondering whether they can help in any fashion.

Food aid

The rabbi had a number of suggestions.

To begin with, be aware that hunger is not merely an Ethiopian or Central African problem. Tens of thousands of South African Blacks die every year from starvation. Direct some of your help to these districts and let them know that Jews care about them. For aside from the mitzvah of feeding the hungry, he said, there would also be the effect of counteracting strong PLO propaganda which has made common cause with the African National Congress.

Secondly, adopt one of the South African congregations. Memberships are shrinking as emigration increases. Help them maintain their religious, educational and social programs as long as possible. And help them especially should they want to go to Israel en masse. Think of it: if they could transfer their enormous talents and communal expertise to Israel. It would make a difference all around.

Meanwhile, justice is at stake and, as so often, justice and the wellbeing of our own people are closely tied to one another.

"How could they do this to us . . . ?"

Scandal hurts Jews in government

By
WOLF BLITZER

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The Jonathan Jay Pollard spy scandal has had a very direct impact on other American Jews working in the U.S. government, especially those involved in sensitive national security matters.

Their non-Jewish colleagues, for the most part, have not confronted them and said anything snide. But the Jews still clearly feel uncomfortable, somewhat more awkward and conspicuous.

They also feel as if this has been a major betrayal by Israel — the decision to actually "run" an American Jewish intelligence agent in Washington. It has revived with a vengeance the old allegations of dual loyalty, which had in recent years largely been buried.

Over the past few days, I interviewed a cross section of senior Jewish officials working at the state department, the White House, the Pentagon and the justice department. They spoke candidly on condition that they would not be identified by name. They each agreed that Israel had blundered badly by paying the 31-year-old civilian naval intelligence analyst for stolen classified documents.

A Jewish official in the justice department, for example, said it was still "too early to tell" whether Pollard's arrest would have all that much of a long-term damaging impact on the status of Jews in the U.S. government. He predicted, however, that Jews applying for sensitive government positions involving security clearances will from now on "be subjected to stricter" background checks by the FBI.

He also said there already had been a "chilling effect" on American Jews working in the government. "I think there is a realization that one has to be a little more careful," he said, "a little more discreet."

Another Jewish official at the defence department said: "It has had a terrible effect on the morale of the Jews. It has come up in a number of conversations with senior people . . . Many of my Jewish friends in the government have told me that they have felt very, very peculiar. They have found themselves on the defensive."

This official was very angry at Israel. "There is a sense almost of betrayal," he said. "The Israelis may not have considered this aspect.

"I think the perception that I have gotten from the various Jewish people I have spoken to is that the Israelis didn't take into account the impact on the United States Jewish community, and what a difficult position this places us in," he continued. "Apart from anything else, there is the absolute stupidity of the whole thing.

"A lot of people are saying, the Israelis are arrogant. They don't care about the American Jewish community. They only want to take our money. And they just don't give a hoot."

He sensed that non-Jews now look at the Jews "in a funny way. There is a terrible sense that people seem to have been put on the spot. I haven't felt it very personally. But among the Jews in the government, it is the subject of discussion. There is no other subject that is being discussed. And the reaction is that it's almost like betrayal. How could they do this to us, as American Jews?"

Is it going to result in less willingness on the part of Jews in the government to deal with Israel? Will they stop showing up at the Israeli embassy for receptions? Will they stop meeting with Israeli diplomats?

"I don't know," he replied. "I don't think many people have really thought through the situation. They're really still in a state of shock. I just don't know.

"There's obviously fundamental sympathy (toward Israel), and that is not going to change. It's just that the shock to many people has really hit home."

Another high Reagan administration political appointee said: "I have seen two things: All the Jews in the government are very unhappy, much more so, in my sense, than the Jews outside the government. With all due respect, my sense is that Jews outside the government, a lot of them, are saying, 'Well, Israel needs it.' But Jews in the government are saying it's terrible, unbelievable that they have done this, that this happened."

Looking down the road, there is a consensus among these Jews that the final outcome of this sordid affair will largely depend on what emerges from the current investigation into the whole Pollard business.

If it becomes clear that this was merely an isolated incident, that Pollard was simply a rogue character, the crisis will tend to blow over relatively quickly. "But if they turn up two or three others, who also happen to be Jewish, I think that could really, really be bad," one American Jewish official in the government commented.

Meanwhile, FBI Director, William Webster said that the United States government's main interest in the case is in prosecuting an American citizen who violated the law.

"We do not sanction, we do not condone, we do not knowingly permit friendly countries to operate as agents in this country," Webster said in reply to a question following his luncheon address to the National Press Club. "When we find out about it, we stop it."

Webster said the Pollard case was "a little different matter, however, than someone who is trying to destroy this country. It does not excuse the conduct of the American citizen who violates the law and betrays his trust and we will prosecute them."

New Liberal Centre Party opposes keeping territories

JERUSALEM (JTA) — **The newly-formed Liberal Centre Party, led by Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat and Jewish Agency chairman Leon Dulzin, has issued its political platform, demonstrating a basically moderate line on foreign policy.**

Following day-long deliberations by the leadership in Tel Aviv, the party announced that it was opposed to annexation of the administered areas, and was opposed to a binational state, which would result from such annexation. Israel, the party declared, must be a Jewish and Zionist state.

While Israel had an historic right over the territories, it should be prepared to give up territories for peace.

Jerusalem, however, is not a matter for negotiation.

The party also rejects out of hand the creation of an independent Palestinian state between Israel and Jordan.

The platform stressed the equality of all Israeli citizens regardless of religions, race or sex.

The platform is thus close to that of the Labor Party and the new group must therefore be considered a potential partner of Labor, rather than of Likud — if it succeeds in winning seats in the Knesset.

Other party leaders include former Likud-Liberal minister Yitzhak Berman (who resigned from the cabinet over the Lebanon war), and former Likud-Liberal deputy minister Yehezkel Flomin.

'Frisco law brings children closer to working parents

By
ELLEN GOODMAN

SAN FRANCISCO — Three years ago on yet another fund-raising walkathon through the streets of San Francsico, Supervisor Nancy Walker started adding things up. Here was a city in which the majority of the supervisors were women, the mayor was a woman, and the two members of Congress were women. But the sum total of their efforts didn't impress her.

"I couldn't look at one thing we'd done to keep a commitment to the women's community," said Walker. She walked and thought that day about the lack of a women's agenda, and the need for women to hold their elected officials accountable. "Our interests always get put on the back burner. We say, 'Oh well, we'll wait until next year.'"

Walker decided to hold herself accountable. When the local Child Care Law Center drafted an innovative day-care ordinance, she got hold of it and said, "Let's just do it." And they did it.

Today, San Francisco is the first city in the U.S. with a law that makes developers of major new projects provide rent-free space or ante up $1 a square foot for nearby child-care centres. No child care, no building approval.

"I expected them to scream from here to next week," says Walker. But opposition has been muted. At least one major developer is ready and waiting for the regulations to be completed so he can come aboard. Maybe San Francisco developers are getting conditioned to public-minded strings of private projects. After all, the new zoning laws also mandate a budget for art.

As Walker says, "If you hang a piece of art for $8,000 in the lobby, why not put kids in the building. They change every day, and people never get bored with them."

Aside from the esthetic beauty of pre-school mobiles, on-site day care may also make some business sense. It gives the developer a competitive edge in selling space to corporations, especially when the city has an office vacancy rate of 12%. It gives the corporation an edge in hiring and holding the loyalty of a young work force. It is no secret that a worker's performance goes up when anxiety about the children goes down.

But the real profit motive behind this ordinance is for the working families of the Bay Area. Like families in every city in the only industrialized nation in the world without a day-care policy, there are more children here in need of day care than places to care for them.

To boil all the stories down to statistics, half the mothers of pre-school children in the Bay Area are working, one child in five lives in a single-parent family, and last year there were 10,000 requests to the city's child-care coordinator that went unfilled. About two-thirds of those who need child care can't afford the average $450 a month. Nevertheless it's taken a long time for day care to become a breaking issue.

Traditionally, most corporations have enlisted parents into their work force without assuming any responsibility for child care. The amount of energy needed to lift child care off the corporate launching pad has been intimidating. Families with young children who need child care most often have the least leftover fuel to expend in organizing.

The major attraction of the new San Francisco law is that it will not only enlarge the number of child-care slots and lower the costs, but bring care closer to the parents' workplace. This is more than a convenience; it gives parents a stronger connection to centres and a chance to lunch with and visit their pre-schoolers.

The San Francisco ordinance is only a modest first step in forging a private/public partnership for kids. But it's a decent example of what can happen when women use power to get a piece of that agenda "of the back burner."

There are still some who find the notion of putting child care in downtown skyscrapers a bit peculiar. When outsiders talk to Walker about the plan, "They say to me, 'Can you imagine gray-suited executives riding up the elevator to the 26th floor with a bunch of sticky-fingered kids?' I say, 'Yeah. I can. It would do them a world of good.'"

Well, here comes that world of good. The sticky-fingered kids are on their way to the San Francisco workplace.

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No marriages yet

CJC program plays matchmaker for singles

By
JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL —
After one year of operation, Canadian Jewish Congress' matchmaking program for Jewish singles can claim about a dozen "serious relationships," but no marriages among its 400 applicants.

Rita Finestone, chairman of the Jewish Introduction Service, is pleased with that record. However, she hopes that JIS's second year will see an increase in the number of applicants and a greater expansion outside Montreal, into the rest of Canada and even the United States. "I would like to have thousands of names in our files," she said.

The great majority of the singles served at present are from the Montreal area, even though JIS is a national program and has been advertised in the press across Canada, as well as New York City.

Among the minority outside Quebec are one of the serious couples. It's a long-distance romance; he's living in Ontario, she in Nova Scotia. But letters and phone calls have led them to believe they are for each other.

The successful matching of these two illustrates how this program's methods allow it to serve Jewish singles anywhere in the country, no matter how small the community.

Applicants are asked if they are willing to meet a person outside their own city. Personal interviews are not required (although they can be arranged with JIS coordinator Terrye Perlman). All contact is by mail or phone; applicants complete two major written questionnaires before they are available to be introduced to someone.

The first requires the person to seriously examine his or her attitudes on marriage and their relationships within their own family. Two or three applicants have been rejected after this stage because they were judged to have personality disorders.

The second questionnaire is designed to allow the applicant describe him/herself and the kind of person he/she would like to meet. It contains dozens of multiple-choice questions on physical attributes, religious observance, education, income, occupation, interests, social attitudes and cultural values, and just about everything else one could think to ask.

It is frank as well. Applicants, for example, are asked to rate themselves sexually (possible answers range from indifferent to kinky). It is only to the applicant's benefit to be as honest as possible in evaluating themselves.

The actual matching is done by an anonymous committee of three volunteers, all employed in the "helping professions," who handle specially coded files — the applicants names are never revealed to them — on the basis of the data provided in the questionnaires. Perlman then sends the name and number to each person matched by the committee. It is up to them to introduce themselves to the other.

The service is conducted in the strictest confidence. Only Perlman, who works from an office at CJC, knows the names of applicants and has access to the locked files.

Predictably, women applicants outnumber men by a ratio of about 2-to-1. However, Finestone is happy with that number; she had feared the ratio of women to men would have been twice as high. "That was one of the preconceived notions some people had about the program when we began that has proven to be wrong," she said. "Another was that we would be besieged with older women. The fact is the majority of the women are between 28 and 45."

Older women have been warned that their chances are much less of finding a suitable partner simply because there aren't the same number of single men in that age group. Some of the older men who do apply want younger women, Perlman said.

Another shortage is women in the early 20s. Men outnumber women in the 20-30 age category — and understandably they do not want older women.

About 90% of the applicants have a college education and want to be introduced to someone with a similar background.

Perlman has found many applicants are very particular about the person they want to meet, which has made successful introductions all that much more difficult. An important section of the questionnaire determines how flexible the applicant is in what he or she wants in the other person.

The JIS committee discovered just how well the questionnaire can allow the matching of people with a lot in common. In one instance, a couple who had been dating eight years ago were introduced. — much to each's surprise.

JIS had to build up a bank of applicants before actual matching could begin in June. Applicants are given no guarantees except that their names will be kept on file for two years, or until they wish to terminate their enrolment.

JIS will endeavor to make at least two introductions in that time. If none can be made, they will be offered one extra year for their name to be kept on file. Matched couples are asked to keep Perlman informed on the progress of their relationship.

Finestone does not believe the basic registration fee of $300 has been prohibitive. First of all, the fee is determined by the applicants' income and financial responsibilities and some are charged as little as $70 for the 2-year enrolment. In addition, the fee is much less than that charged by private, profit-making introduction services and few can offer the integrity expected from a community sponsored service.

In addition to CJC, the sponsors of JIS are the Board of Jewish Ministers of Greater Montreal and the Synagogue Council of Greater Montreal. The Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Montreal also contributed an initial grant.

Perlman, a counselor by profession, works at CJC two days a week and a clerical worker mans the JIS office on another two days.

The program is patterned on an introduction service run by the United Church in Calgary for over 20 years. JIS has adapted this service's materials and techniques to its needs, and its key workers trained at the Church's Pastoral Institute of Canada in Calgary.

JIS, Perlman stressed, is not a dating service. It's for those looking for lasting relationships, if not marriage. Although no one is rejected because of age, JIS is aiming for the 20 to 45-year-olds.

It also prides itself on making "quality" introductions. "If a biography or interview indicates an extremely troubled personality, or if a person appears to likely to be unemployed for a long period of time, we encourage them to defer applying until their situation improves." Perlman describes the 400 persons in the files as "really together, successful individuals."

"Our much of the first year was devoted to working out the details, adjusting our materials and building up our files," said Finestone. "Now, we are organized and we know we are capable of expanding on a national basis in our second year." (Materials are now available in French, too.)

Finestone is sure the market is there. According to the 1981 census, there were 40,820 single adult Jews living alone in Canada — "a figure we find too high."

Reform Jews in S. Africa said "beleagured, anxious"

By
RON CSILLAG

TORONTO —
Reform Jews in South Africa are in the forefront in the battle against apartheid, but they themselves are considered second class Jews, says a leading Reform rabbi from South Africa.

Rabbi Norman Mendell, spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel of Johannesburg, told an audience at Holy Blossom Temple recently that Reform Jews, known as Progressive Jews in South Africa, are leading the Jewish fight against apartheid, which they consider "indefensible, immoral and evil."

But Reform Jews in South Africa, who number about 5,000 families of a total Jewish population of between 110,000 and 112,000, are a "beleaguered, anxious" community who are taking more and more risks in speaking out against South Africa's policy of racial segregation, Mendell said.

He said Reform Jews are fighting apartheid "against a backdrop of Jewish discrimination" emanating from the Orthodox community.

Rabbi Norman Mendell

"There is day to day diminishment in the Reform movement in South Africa. Reform are considered a second class Jewish community," said Mendell, a native of Oakland, Calif.

In Jewish cemeteries in South Africa, he noted, there are separate sections for Reform Jews.

And Orthodox Jews are only now beginning to do something about apartheid, Mendell maintained. "They're beginning to realize it's more sophisticated than they thought."

Reform Jews, he said, have been fighting apartheid for years by holding educational programs with Blacks and "coloreds," or those of mixed race, and in going "on record as abhoring apartheid."

Mendell called on Reform shuls in the United States and Canada to join in the battle by "adopting" sister Reform congregations in South Africa.

Part of the problem in apartheid is in the attitude of Afrikaners— white, native-born South Africans who are "an obdurate, stubborn" people, far more "intractable" than other whites.

"The Afrikaner sees himself as the Israeli of South Africa. It is his people, his folk (being threatened). His sense of peoplehood must dominate. He believes his people will be pushed into the sea."

By the year 2000, Blacks in South Africa will number 50 million from the current 25 million. Mendel said.

Jews in South Africa should also be fighting the influence of the Palestine Liberation Organization on the extreme left and the recent election to Parliament of a member of an extreme-right "neo-Nazi" party.

In general, the rabbi maintained, South African Jews have not been "as forthcoming" about apartheid as they should be.

Mendell hinted that more economic sanctions against South Africa may not be in the best interests of Blacks and coloreds, since current sanctions are costing about 1,000 jobs a week, mainly among non-whites.

Jews face "an excruciating moral dilemma" in serving in the South African army, which must patrol Black townships, with violent results almost daily, he continued.

As for the sensitive issue of economic and military ties between Israel and South Africa, Mendell said that on paper, trade between the two nations is still "much less" than between South Africa and other countries.

Israel, whose people have suffered from racism more than any other, has continually come under fire for trading with South Africa.

Mendell conceded that Israel "must re-examine" its military ties with South Africa but at the same time, Israel must be in South Africa "in a highly visible way, in working with people."

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Living Halacha

By
RABBI MOSES J. BURAK

QUESTION: Is there some halacha to guide me in what I may or may not say about a guest speaker?

Not really. Your main problem lies in the fact that there are some speakers who don't know how to accept a compliment gracefully.

Rabbi Burak

But, since you ask it, let me tell you about the occasion when a guest speaker questioned the halachic right of the introducer who gave him a very elaborate introduction. The visitor was a rosh yeshiva from one of our great institutions. Since we make mendicants of our men of learning, he had come raise funds. The local rosh yeshiva was given the task of introducing the eminent visitor. He said all the right things, and found himself blamed for it by the guest.

Here is the way the speaker put it: "I am not obligated to tell the world how little I know. That's not mandated by the Talmud Bavli. But, the Jerusalem Talmud states that if a man who knows only one Tractate of the Talmud is honored by his friends for knowing two Tractates, he is duty bound to state that he knows only the one. Thus, I am obliged to tell this audience that I don't know all the vast works credited to me by your rosh yeshiva."

I felt for our brother whose kindness of heart had landed him in this unexpected trouble. In my own mind, I felt that it was tasteless to raise this question. And incorrect. Does not the Talmud state of one of its great sages that he said: "In all my days I have never gone against the words of my colleagues. I know that I am not a Cohen. Yet, if they say to me 'go duchan' I go up."

Well then, if I don't have to tell people that I'm not a Cohen when they insist on treating me as one, I don't have to trumpet my lack of knowledge to those who think I'm a fountain of wisdom.

Those were the ideas in my mind at the time, but I decided instead to cover the embarassing moment with the explanation given by my revered master, the Gaon Rabbi J. I. Ruderman shalita of Baltimore. Said I: "In Baltimore, my master used to say that in the days of the Yerushalmi, they placed an immense value on the knowledge of a single Tractate of the Talmud. They gave you so much for it, that an honorable man had to admit his lack of knowledge or be branded a thief.

"Today, however, when a man knows the whole Talmud, we give him less honor than they used to give for the knowledge of a single Tractate. So, one need say nothing in denial."

I do find myself in agreement with one response to laudatory remarks, as reported by Chief Rabbi J. H. Hertz z.l. in his message to the Conference of Anglo-Jewish Preachers in 1935. There was a civic welcome given for an Anglican bishop. When the Jewish clerical representative told the gathering that he had read the bishop's installation sermon, and that he himself could have said every word of it in his own pulpit, the canon of the cathedral responded with this icy, acid comment: "Either you have lapsed into heresy, or we have."

Beware of introducing the speaker as an orator. Cicero, in Book I, c. xxvii, On the Character of the Orator, says: "But in an orator, the acuteness of the logicians, the wisdom of the philosophers, the language almost of poetry, the memory of lawyers, the voice of tragedians, the gesture of the best actors is required."

Action stalls property seizure

Montreal Y fights tax bill ruling

By
JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL —

The YM-YWHA of Montreal is fighting an approximately $700,000 tax bill from the Montreal Urban Community in Quebec Superior Court. The action has stalled seizure by the city of Y property which was scheduled to go on the sheriff's block earlier this month.

The Y received a mainly unfavorable judgment from the Commission municipale du Quebec in its contesting of municipal property tax assessments for the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, plus school taxes retroactive to July 1, 1982, totaling about $725,000.

The commission ruled that only the Saidye Bronfman Centre and two large art rooms on the lower level of the adjoining Snowdon Y branch (or about 26% of the total floor space of the building) are tax exempt as properties used by the public on a non-profit basis.

The rest of the Snowdon branch and all of the Davis branch in Cote St. Luc were determined by the commission to be liable to full taxation. The Laval branch has also been assessed for back taxes but, being a matter under the jurisdiction of the City of Laval, has been deferred for the meantime, said Y accountant Jacob Haimovici.

The commission decision reduced the amount owing to about $550,000. However, the 1985-86 assessment soon due — another $150,000 — brings the total up to almost the original bill.

The Snowdon branch was scheduled to be sold by the sheriff Dec. 2, but the Y was able to stall that. The Davis branch was also eligible for sale, but Haimovici said the City of Cote St. Luc has not forced the issue.

In its action filed with Superior Court, the Y calls the commission's decision a "grave violation of the law" and a "flagrant injustice." Haimovici said, if need be, the Y is prepared to fight all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada. The Y had not received a date in court at the time of writing.

The Y points out that the Young Men's Christian Association, with which it shares similar ideals and programming, has won its battle with Montreal over back taxes after a favorable judgment from the commission.

The commission has, in effect, classified the YM-YWHA as a private club, according to Haimovici. Its decision is based on the evidence that the Y's fees are higher than those of the YMCA and that the Y has a membership rather than charging daily user fees.

The Y will argue in court that the total picture has to be taken into account in determining whether its fees are higher. While the Y's regular annual membership is higher at $350 (compared to the YMCA's $300), the Y has lower fees for students, young adults and senior citizens than the YMCA.

Haimovici added that the Y issued $300,000 in scholarships this year to persons unable to pay regular fees.

The Y maintains that it is open to everyone and its memberships are only a name and are nothing more than user fees collected in advance. In any case, the Y says the law makes no reference to the manner by which fees to the public are charged.

The Y also argues that 10% of its budget is dependent upon community funding, government grants and private donations and without which the Y would run up a deficit. The Y is also a federally registered non-profit charitable organization.

While the Y is convinced none of its operations are of a profit-making nature, it is insistent the space used for the nursery schools at all branches and the day care centre of the Centre Communautaire Juif (which is in the Snowdon building) should obviously be exempted.

The Y says in its suit that the commission exceeded the jurisdiction conferred upon it by the provincial act respecting municipal taxation. That act stipulates the building must only be "mainly" used for non-profit activities, not exclusively, Haimovici pointed out.

The Canadian Jewish Congress has also been reassessed for back taxes, on its headquarters at Dr. Penfield Ave. and Cote des Neiges Rd., totaling over $168,000 going back to 1983. It has not yet had its case heard by the commission and does not expect to for several months yet.

Melvin Schiff, the lawyer preparing Congress' case, said neither the law affecting the taxability of non-profit institutions nor the reason the Y and CJC were suddenly reassessed is clear.

Apparently, the MUC just assumed these two buildings were tax exempt until someone took a closer look at the law, said Schiff. According to the law, such institutions must make a formal application for exemption status each year with the Commission municipale du Quebec, and CJC and the Y did not make such an application for many years and no one noticed.

"There is a certain degree of vagueness in the law as to what constitutes the principal use of the property," said Schiff. It also sometimes difficult to understand the motivations of the commission's interpretations.

A few years ago, Schiff successfully represented Allied Jewish Community Services and the Golden Age Association in its dispute with the city over property taxes and these two institutions continue to enjoy exempt status.

The Montreal city councilor representing the Snowdon ward, opposition Montreal Citizens' Movement member Marvin Rotrand, said he believes the tax problems are "typical of the way the Drapeau administration works," in that actions are taken with little prior warning or explanation. He added that the MUC executive committee could by resolution wipe out any tax debts of these institutions.

Meanwhile, Haimovici said the Y could not absorb such a huge sum as the city is seeking and would have to go outside for financial assistance.

The Name Game

There's a story in almost every Jewish surname and Toronto lawyer FRED M. CATZMAN has been researching their origin over the past few years.

In a series of articles Mr. Catzman reports on his research. If you have any information relating to the origin and meaning of your surname, please pass it along to Fred M. Catzman, c/o The Canadian Jewish News, 562 Eglinton Ave. E., Toronto M4P 1P1.

* * *

ALEXANDER — SENDEROVITCH

While most patronymic surnames are based on biblical names (Abramson, Isaacson, Jacobson), one noteable exception is the name Alexander, of Macedonian origin.

Alexander the Great left a profound impact on the Jewish community. Legend tells us that the high priest promised Alexander the Great on the occasion of his visit to Jerusalem that he would decree that all male children born to Jews in the year following his visit would be named after him. The practice may be compared to the popularity of the name Lincoln in the Black community of the United States.

Alexander continues as a Jewish surname either in its original form or in mutations like Alexandroff, Sender, Senderovitch and Shenderoff.

Turner named USSR envoy

OTTAWA —

Canada's ambassador to Israel, Vernon G. Turner, has been named the new Canadian ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Vernon Turner

Turner, a career diplomat, will take up his new posting in Moscow after the Christmas and New Year holidays, according to sources in the external affairs department.

The sources add that Canada's new envoy to Israel will be announced in the new year.

Turner, 55, became ambassador to Israel in September, 1982 after postings in Washington, London, Warsaw and Dar-es-Salaam, the Tanzanian capital.

He served as high commissioner to Cyprus at the same time as ambassador to Israel.

A Toronto native who joined the external affairs department in 1954, Turner directed the department's Eastern European division, served as minister in Washington and was a senior policy advisor to the Canadian delegation at an international committee on Vietnam.

As ambassador, Turner echoed Canadian policy by opposing Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, supporting the right of Palestinians to a homeland on the West Bank and Gaza strip and expressed concern over Israeli settlement policy.

On the whole, though, he praised Canada's relations with Israel as healthy and improving.

Israeli official faces fraud charges

TEL AVIV (JTA) —

Avi Tzur, a former aide to Deputy Defence Minister Michael Dekel when the latter was deputy minister of agriculture, was arraigned in magistrate's court last week on charges of promoting land sales in the West Bank with forged documents and accepting bribes from land developers.

Tzur, who works for the Airport Authority, is one of the former aides of Dekel arrested on suspicion of land sales fraud. The other, Claude Malka, an aide now to Transport Minister Haim Corfu, is free on bail.

Dekel, who was named to the defence ministry post only two weeks ago, was questioned for five hours by chief superintendent of police Shimon Savir, head of the serious crimes division.

Reportedly, he was questioned about forged documents issued in his name by Tzur, about his management of West Bank settlement affairs during his tenure at the agriculture ministry, his knowledge, if any, of letters issued on his personal ministry stationery, signed by Tzur, and about the suspected misappropriation of funds contributed to the Likud 1984 election campaign chest.

Dekel's appearance was voluntary and he has not been accused of any offence. But the arrests of his two ex-aides triggered charges by Likud that the police were acting from political motivations. The police ministry is headed by a prominent Laborite, Haim Barlev.

Tzur is accused of having received about 30 million shekels (more than $50,000 at the time) to get government approval of new settlements in the West Bank where developers wanted to sell land to the public.

He is said to have pocketed part of the money and passed the rest on to a Likud group promoting increased settlement activity. He is also accused of giving developers forged documents to dupe potential land buyers. The documents indicated that certain settlements had been approved by the cabinet when in fact they had not.

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PLAY PERIOD

The future strength of Israel — Ethiopian children. They stop to pose for a picture during play period at their kindergarten in Netanya. [IPPA photo]

Thugs still on loose after beating at shul

MILWAUKEE (JTA) — Police here have not yet caught any of the three men who beat and burned Sexton Buzz Cody of Reform Congregation Emanu-El B'ne Jeshurun when he refused to give them access to the synagogue's Torah scrolls. Cody was hospitalized and released six days after the attack. The investigation, by a pair of detectives on each of the force's three shifts, has produced no leads so far.

The incident on Dec. 7, however, generated a storm of protest when Police Lieut. William Vogl, who was not assigned to the case, told the Milwaukee Journal that he doubted Cody's story. After the congregation's Rabbi Francis Barry Silberg protested this statement, the police department repudiated it, and Police Chief Robert Ziarnik assured the Milwaukee Jewish Council that the case was being investigated.

According to a report in the Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle by its editor, Andy Muchin, 35-year-old Cody, who converted to Judaism 12 years ago, was accosted shortly after 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning in the synagogue's sanctuary by three men. They demanded access to the Torah scrolls, four of which are stored in the Ark behind locked brass doors.

When Cody, who had a key to the Ark, refused to open it, the men beat him, then dragged him up the stairs to the second floor, which serves as a storeroom, and choir and organ loft. There, holding a knife to his throat, they cut his hand and leg, tore off his shirt, and poured a caustic liquid drain cleaner on his bare chest.

"Middle Eastern accents"

Cody kicked one of the men. They fled, taking the $100 they had robbed him of. Cody crawled to the elevator and made it to the lobby, where the janitor found him. He was taken to the hospital with second-degree burns.

The police, who came to the synagogue when Silberg called them, found a can of lye crystals, a carving knife, two yellow rubber gloves, and a bottle of liquid drain cleaner on the second floor, apparently left behind by the attackers.

Silberg told the Chronicle that Cody had said the attackers had "Middle Eastern accents" and spoke in Arabic. Cody later told police that the men mentioned the initials "PDL." These initials, said Randy Kahn, Wisconsin coordinator for B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League, could stand for Palestinian Defense League.

The Chronicle, wrote Muchin, received a telephone call the day before the attack from an unidentified man who, said secretary Pam Burns, had said, ". . . Defense League is at war with the Jewish community." A similar declaration by the Palestinian Defense League was received in a letter to a Colorado Springs newspaper in March 1983, according to Kahn.

The attack on Cody followed the unsolved July spray painting of swastikas and anti-semitic graffiti on the exterior of the Jewish Community Center and the adjoining Helfaer Community Services Building and a restaurant, and a similar incident a year-and-a-half ago involving a suburban synagogue.

Judy Mann, executive director of the Milwaukee Jewish Council, called the Cody attack "more than alarming" but urged Jews to remain calm and keep it in perspective. She said that police Chief Ziarnik had "reassured" her about the investigation of the Cody attack.

Ottawa may change policy

Break seen for Soviet Jews

By
RON CSILLAG

OTTAWA — The chairman of the Canadian Parliamentary Group for Soviet Jewry, David Kilgour, says he's "quite sure" the government will change its policy to allow Ottawa to make representation on behalf of individual Soviet Jews who want to immigrate to Israel.

Last week, Kilgour, MP Sheila Finestone (Lib.— Mount Royal) and representatives of the Canadian Jewish Congress (Quebec Region) met with Cy Tailor, Canada's under secretary of state for external affairs, to discuss the proposed changes to Canadian policy on Soviet Jews.

Congress wants Ottawa to alter its policy, which currently states that Canada can only make representation on behalf of those Soviet Jews wanting to come here, says Martin Penn, chairman of CJC's Soviet Jewry committee.

Penn said CJC wants to policy changed to allow Canada to put pressure on the Soviets on behalf of the approximately 380,000 Jews wanting to go to Israel and on behalf of "dozens" of individual cases.

Under the terms of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, signatory nations— including Canada, the Soviet Union and 33 other countries— can make representation on behalf of Soviet Jews wanting to go to countries other than their own and especially to Israel, from where the majority of invitations to Soviet Jews come.

However, Kilgour told The CJN, the Liberal government of former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau changed that policy about 10 years ago to state that Ottawa can only put pressure on the Soviets on behalf of Jews wanting to come to Canada.

"I'm personally quite sure the government will change its policy," said Kilgour, a Conservative. "We have to state that (dissident Anatoly) Scharansky and others are not purely internal (Soviet) matters.

"(The proposal) is a perfectly logical application of the Helsinki Final Act."

Other Western nations such as France, Britian and the Netherlands can all make representation on behalf of Soviet Jews wanting to go to Israel, said Kilgour, who leads the 273-member group comprised of MPs and senators.

He said he can't understand why the Trudeau government changed its policy, except perhaps to avoid antagonizing the Soviets.

Penn said that under the proposal, Canada could also make representation on behalf of the roughly 50,000 Soviet Refuseniks— those who have applied to leave for Israel but have been refused and, in most cases, fired from their jobs and harassed.

As well, Canada would be able to take up several individual cases, he noted.

"Additional representation from Canada can have an impact on the Soviets," Penn said. "They can take Canadian pressure seriously."

However, the proposal does not extend to Soviet Jews wanting to go to countries other than Israel, he added. Penn said "almost all" Soviet Jews who have applied to emigrate want to go to Israel.

Penn and other high level CJC officials have scheduled a meeting with External Affairs Minister Joe Clark in early January to further discuss the proposal.

CJC program aids small communities

MONTREAL — The National Small Communities Department of Canadian Jewish Congress has developed a multi-service program designed to meet the needs of small or geographically isolated Jewish communities.

Materials and support services are available to enhance cultural, educational and religious activities. The department is headed by director Shellie Ettinger, a social worker with professional expertise in Jewish communal life and committee chairmen Norm Bercovich from Western Canada and Murray Schwartz from Atlantic Canada.

The department organizes speaking tours, regional conferences and entertainment circuits, prepares newsletters and holiday kits, and has produced a Jewish Home Educator's Kit.

"We are deeply concerned with the growth of small Jewish communities. Our goal is to facilitate their participation in Canadian Jewish affairs while providing the tools to sustain and develop their culture and heritage through local programs," said Ettinger.

In addition to the regular programming provided by the National Small Communities Department, a team is being assembled to encourage participation in the CJC Plenary Assembly May 7-11 in Toronto. Members of small Jewish communities will be contacted in the near future to inform them about the triennial assembly.

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MINISTERS MEET

Egypt's oil minister, Abdel Hadi Kandil (left) paid a visit to Israel recently. On his right are Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal and member of Knesset Shoshana Arbeli-Almuslino. [IPPA photo]

Peres' promises satisfy Orthodox

JERUSALEM (JTA) — Premier Shimon Peres has acceded to religious demands to avert a threatened non-confidence motion by the Orthodox parties in the Knesset (CJN Dec. 19).

The religious caucus decided last week not to introduce the motion. Apparently they were satisfied with Peres' promise that there will be no soccer games at the new Ramat Gan stadium on Saturdays, no Friday evening performances at the Heichal Theater in Petach Tikva, and a ban on Sabbath operation of the cable car in Haifa.

Only the night before, thousands demonstrated in Ramat Gan to protest Sabbath soccer and the opening of restaurants, cafes and cinemas in the new Canion shopping mall there on Saturdays. They voted to "fight to the last drop of our blood" to prevent Sabbath desecration.

One of the demonstrators, Rabbi Eliahu Raful, attacked the government and declared the religious community would decide who will rule the country and in what manner.

The religious community is a distinct minority. All of the religious factions muster no more than 12 votes in the 120-member Knesset. But Peres, like Labor Prime Ministers before him, has always dealt with them circumspectly. Although their non-confidence motion seemed to post no danger, Peres was anxious to avoid it because of the mounting political tension within the Labor-Likud unity coalition on issues of far greater moment than enforced religious observance. *(See Mideast Analysis, page 8.)*

He satisfied the Orthodox, at least temporarily, by promising to set up a ministerial committee to deal with the proposed Mormon Center on Mt. Scopus in Jerusalem, which the Orthodox fear will be a centre for missionary activity.

The Prime Minister stood fast on his refusal to bring the Who is a Jew amendment or the Law of Return before the Knesset for yet another vote — it was twice defeated in recent years — but he agreed to certain changes in the laws governing rabbinical courts, said to include elements satisfying Orthodox demands on the conversion issue.

The religious parties also got a commitment from Peres to expedite a measure banning the raising of pigs and sale of pork, now before the Knesset economic committee. It passed its first reading in the Knesset several weeks ago and was discussed by the Knesset legal committee, headed by a Likud MK.

Watch for our
Weekly Specials
in
The CJN.

Will ask Iraq for extradition

U.S. wants to get Abbas

By
DAVID FRIEDMAN

WASHINGTON (JTA) — The state department said last week that it will ask Iraq to extradite Mohammed Abbas if the high-ranking Palestine Liberation Organization official, believed to have masterminded the hijacking of the Italian liner Achille Lauro, is in the Arab country.

But state department deputy spokesman Charles Redman said the United States has no "confirmation" that Abbas was in Iraq after the hijacking, except for press reports, and doesn't know where he is now.

In addition, Redman said that the Iraqis "have indicated publicly that they don't believe Abbas is subject to extradition under the U.S.-Iraq extradition treaty."

Secretary of State George Shultz on his way to Yugoslavia last week reportedly accused Iraq of appearing to give safe haven to Abbas, but rejected a suggestion that Iraq would be again listed by the U.S. as a country that supports terrorism.

"People like Abbas move from one country to another," Redman quoted Shultz as saying. "We're not going to put every country he goes to on the terrorist list."

Redman said that "we have put the Iraqis formally on notice that we will formally request Abbas' extradition if we obtain confirmation that he is in Iraq."

Redman referred to Shultz's statement at a press conference in Belgrade in which the secretary pounded a table in anger after Yugoslav Foreign Minister Raif Dizdarevic said that in speaking of terrorism "one must also view the causes that lead to it." Shultz had earlier expressed "my disappointment" that Abbas had been allowed to go through Yugoslavia.

"I'd like to add a point, if I may, on the question of causes," Shultz said interrupting the foreign minister. "Hijacking the Italian ship, murdering an American, torturing and holding a whole bunch of other Americans, is not justified by any cause that I know of. There is no connection with any cause. It's wrong."

Shultz then pounded on the table twice and added, "And the international community must step up to this problem and deal with it unequivocally, firmly, definitively. There must be no place to hide for people who do that kind of thing."

Study finds problems in W. Bank health care

NEW YORK (JTA) — **Despite impressive strides forward in the past 20 years, "Third World patterns of health" are found in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including high infant mortality rates, nutritional problems, and deficiencies of sanitation and water, according to a study released here.**

The 300-page study further stated that while some segments of the Palestinian population suffer from diseases which are no longer prevalent in the industrialized world, other segments are subject to such "modern" illnesses as obesity, hypertension and heart disease "which are not adequately detected or treated."

The study asserted that among the problems in the field of health services in the territories were a lack of coordination between several independent systems providing health care to the population, the failure of a single planning facility to manage the flow of resources, and budgetary constraints.

The study, Health Status and Services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, was conducted by the Institute for Middle East Peace and Development at the City University of New York Graduate Center during a 12-month period ending last September.

Described as "the first non-partisan study of health conditions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," it was sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development with a grant of $371,678, with counterpart funding from the Business Group for Middle East Peace and Development.

The report recommended that "creative approaches to health development have to be implemented;" more open policies initiated by the government of Premier Shimon Peres toward private sector development should continue; and "outside funding efforts for health would be facilitated if there were a consensus within the Palestinian health community on goals."

According to the report, outside capital flowing into the West Bank supplements the reported $20 million per year Israel spends on Palestinian health.

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DIARY ...of a People

By DAVID BIRKAN

U.S. philanthropist Judah Touro died on Tevet 19 (Dec. 30 this year), 1854. He set the precedent for magnanimity and diversity of financial support characterizing many self-made Jews in the West.

Touro was born in Newport, Rhode Island in 1775. His father Isaac was rabbi of the city's famous synagogue, one of North America's oldest. His mother died when he was 9. Judah and his brother Abraham were raised in Boston by their uncle Moses Hays, a wealthy and respected man in the community.

At age 26, Judah Touro left Boston — according to legend, for unrequieted love for his cousin Catherine, whom he was too poor to marry — and made his arduous way to the distant town of New Orleans. There, among the Spanish and French settlers, he opened an unassuming general store.

One year later, in 1803, the Louisiana Purchase yielded New Orleans and its vast hinterland to the U.S. The city became the chief port through which cotton, sugar, grain, and tobacco from the southern states passed on their way to Europe. Touro, unmarried, devoted the energy and zeal of his youth to expanding his business in proportion to the city's increasing prosperity. He quickly became one of its leading merchants — a position he held as New Orleans' economy and population boomed.

Touro enlisted in the fledgling American army during the War of 1812, participating in New Orleans' defence against the British. In the final confrontation, the Battle of New Orleans, he was critically wounded and left to die. A Gentile friend, Rezin Shepherd, came back for him and saved his life. Touro never ceased to express his gratitude to his "dear old friend . . . and Divine Providence."

Touro redoubled the generosity that characterized his career from the start. Never waiting to be asked, he funded the city's first public library and other cultural institutions. During an epidemic of yellow fever, he established a hospital, which became known as the Touro Infirmary. He twice funded one of the city's leading Christian houses of worship, the First Congregational Church of New Orleans — once at its foundation and again after it burned down. Wrote its ministry: "A noble Israelite snatched us from the jaws of destruction."

When the first Jewish congregation was organized in the city, Shaarey Chesed, in 1828, Touro paid automatically and unostentiously for its facilities.

Touro was well known particularly when there were few other Jews in the environs, for keeping his business closed on Shaabat. As New Orleans' leading shipowner, whose vessels plied the seas as far as India, Touro continued to live frugally in a small apartment and work from sunrise to sunset.

Touro's largesse extended back to Newport, where he provided for the upkeep of his late father's synagogue and its cemetery, as well as for general municipal improvements. He did not forget Boston, either; Touro was the largest contributor to its Bunker Hill monument.

Privately, he paid for the freedom of a number of Black slaves and helped some of them set up their own businesses. Anonymously, he supported an old business partner in Boston.

An article in Rabbi Isaac Leeser's Occident, a Philadelphia-based magazine of Jewish affairs, prompted Touro to send a large gift in order to try to save the remnant of the Jewish community in China. In 1850, Touro was a principal donor to the building of both New Orleans' new Ashkenazi congregation, Shaarey Tefillah, and the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.

In his final will, dated two weeks before his death, Touro, who never married, named 60 different Jewish and non-Jewish organizations and individuals as beneficiaries of his fortune, in New Orleans, Boston, Philadelphia and New York. These included: eight orphan asylums; the Jews' Hospital of New York, later renamed Mount Sinai; a general hospital; an alms house for the poor and old; a number of Jewish schools; the Newport synagogue; and 22 "Hebrew congregations" specified by name from New York to St. Louis.

Particularly significant was one of the larger bequests, $60,000, for "our unfortunate Jewish brethren in Jerusalem and the Holy Land," left in the hands of English philanthropist Sir Moses Montefiore to distribute. This was used to build Jerusalem's first homes outside the Old City walls, laying the foundation for the New City. The row of stone houses still stand, now artists' quarters, surrounding the Montefiore Windmill.

Touro left $5,000 to Catherine Hays. According to his wish, he was buried in Newport's Jewish cemetery. He was put to rest near another fresh grave. He never learned that his beloved had died several weeks earlier.

Zionist wrote of widespread disasters

Author explained fear of comets

By DAVID BIRKAN

HAIFA —

Halley's Comet should call to mind the work of Immanuel Velikovsky, says his daughter Shulamit Kogan, speaking of the late controversial cosmologist, historian, psychiatrist and pioneer Zionist.

"His book Worlds in Collision gives the definitive answer on why people around the world throughout the ages have regarded comets with such fear," she told The Canadian Jewish News in an interview here.

Worlds in Collision has been a best-seller since it was first published in 1950 by Doubleday in New York.

"According to my father, a celestial mass that looked like a comet, only much heavier and denser, nearly destroyed the Earth in a collision about 3,500 years ago," said Kogan.

The consequent disruptions included massive earthquakes, flooding and volcanoes, as well as electrical discharges that hit the Earth with the force of multi-megaton hydrogen bombs.

"Civilizations were destroyed in the process," she said.

"The survivors, and the generations that followed them, retained the association between comets and terrible worldwide catastrophies," she said.

Velikovsky presented incontrovertible geological, paleological and zooligical signs of widespread disasters in a later book, Earth in Upheaval.

In Worlds in Collision, he marshaled ancient cultural, historical, astronomical and anthropological evidence to suggest that the cause of the super catastrophies was a comet in the process of turning into a planet itself.

In the past decade, science magazines have carried an increasing number of catastrophic hypotheses, such as the extinction of dinosaurs by cosmic rays, and reports of significant extra-terrestial activity, such as massive impact craters on the Earth and much comet dust on the bottom of the sea. These, however, have been hypothetically dated as originating millions of years ago, not Velikovsky's thousands.

Closest so far in time is the massive volcano in the Mediterranean island of Santorini, several years ago said to have erupted about 3,500 years earlier causing tremendous destruction for hundreds of miles around.

Attributed to the volcano's long-distance effects is the piling up and parting of the Red Sea waters that allowed the Israelites to flee Pharaoh's charioteers. This biblical event and attending circumstances is a prominent chapter in Worlds in Collision.

Kogan, an intense middle-aged grandmother, is resuming work on one of her father's nearly completed manuscripts, The Test of Time. It documents the discoveries and findings of the decade. "Confirmations are coming in all the time," she said. "It's hard to keep up with them."

Several other manuscripts also await attention, one is a fascinating presentation on celestially caused cataclysims prior to those described in Worlds in Collision, including the biblical Flood.

Another is Velikovsky's remembrances of his long friendship with Albert Einstein. This began in the early 1920s when Einstein edited the physics and chemistry volume of the Scripta Universitatis series, scientific papers solicited and printed by Velikovsky for the founding of the Hebrew University.

Kogan returned as a teenager from the U.S. to Israel, where she was born during Velikovasky's 15-year sojourn there as a physician and psychiatrist.

Shulamit Kogan works on the manuscripts of Immanuel Velikovsky in her sunny Haifa garden. [David Birkan photo]

Peres meets with president

Ivory Coast to restore ties

GENEVA (JTA) —

Premier Shimon Peres announced here last week that Ivory Coast will reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel, broken off 12 years ago during the Yom Kippur War.

Peres made the announcement after a 4-hour meeting with President Felix Houphouet Boigny of Ivory Coast. The two leaders issued a joint statement saying, "We have decided to recommend to our governments to reestablish diplomatic relations." Peres told a press conference later: "I imagine that our government will follow our recommendations."

Israel has been working strenuously for years to restore relations with the Black African nations that abruptly broke them off in 1973, apparently under Arab pressure. So far, it has succeeded with two, Liberia and Zaire, which reestablished their ties with Israel last year.

The Israeli Premier made his unannounced flight here especially to meet with Houphouet Boigny. He was accompanied by David Kimche, director-general of the foreign ministry.

Uri Savir, a spokesman for the Prime Minister, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Peres intended to make his meeting with Houphouet Boigny public only if the outcome was positive. That was the reason for the secrecy surrounding his 1-day trip to Geneva.

The 80-year-old African leader announced last October that he planned to reestablish diplomatic relations with Israel before his retirement next year. Ivory Coast is one of the richest African states and politically one of the most stable.

Diplomatic sources here said two others may soon follow suit — Gabaon and Cameroon.

Israel presently has diplomatic relations with seven nations on the African continent. These are Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, South Africa, Liberia, Zaire, Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland. The latter three, controlled by South Africa, never broke with Israel.

Vancouver site of festival

VICTORIA —

The 12th annual Canadian Heritage Festival will be held next year in Vancouver in conjunction with Expo 86, federal Multiculturalism Minister Otto Jelinek and British Columbia Government Services Minister James Chabot have announced.

Chabot, representing the B.C. Provincial Cabinet Committee on Cultural Heritage said: "The summer of 1986 will be a time of great pride for the people of British Columbia. Vancouver will be on display to visitors from all over the world, and I am happy the Canadian Heritage Festival will be taking part in this exciting event."

The Canadian Heritage Festival will open on Canada Day, July 1, and will stage two performances daily until July 20. The performers will arrive in Vancouver on June 25 to begin a 5-day rehearsal of an original choreographed production of traditional song, dance and music representative of Canada's cultural mosaic.

Matinee performances will take place at the Plaza of Nations and evening performances at the Canadian Pavilion.

The two ministers signed an agreement wherein the federal government will contribute $300,000 and the government of British Columbia $75,000 to support the festival in 1986.

The Canadian Heritage Festival is sponsored annually by Multiculturalism Canada, in cooperation with the provincial and territorial governments. It brings together performers of different cultural backgrounds from coast-to-coast for a 3-week festival of folkloric performing arts.

"The festival is a unique folkloric event that captures the richness and diversity of Canada's multicultural society," said Jelinek.

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Editorial

In stark contrast

We note with approbation that the Canadian government has decided wisely to extend the mandate of the Deschenes Commission for at least six months (CJN Dec. 19).

Although a longer extension period might have been advisable the prolongation of the committee's research work will afford it an opportunity to carry out investigations in Eastern bloc countries.

The government's reasonable decision stands in stark contrast to a position taken at the commission recently when a lawyer representing that same government suggested that the setting up of the commission was based on an erroneous allegation that Joseph Mengele had applied for admission to Canada.

The lawyer's grilling of a witness in this regard and his — the lawyer's — imputation that a deliberate attempt had been made to mislead and stampede the government into action were dubious legal posturings.

Ivan Whitehall's intervention was questionable on at least two grounds.

First he was guilty of a serious non sequitur. The factuality of Mengele's supposed application to emigrate to Canada does not in any way alter the commission's purpose — which is to investigate the presence of Nazi war criminals in this country. The roster of several hundred names compiled by the commission validates its creation.

The second basis on which we find the government's lawyer's behavior objectionable is a moral one. Never have we seen a more striking example of the selective indignation syndrome.

For more than 40 years now successive governments of this country have obfuscated on the war criminal issue. They have done more than that: they have assisted Nazis in leaving this country; they have tacitly repudiated the need to prosecute Nazi war criminals ("So as not to cater to Jews," in the words of one document that has surfaced) and they have accidentally destroyed documentation that might have had a bearing on the presence of Nazi war criminals in this country.

Mr. Whitehall's indignation is misplaced.

Wisdom in move

The Miami Herald reports that Israel has taken the unusual step of sending to Miami Netanel Lorch, one of Israel's most distinguished historians, to open up a liaison office with its Hispanic population in that city.

Interviewed by the Herald, Lorch said that the large influx of Spanish-speaking people to the Florida city had transformed it into a major world Hispanic centre.

Israel, of course, maintains excellent diplomatic relations with nations of Central and South America (the exceptions being Cuba and Nicaragua). Indeed it was Jose Garcia Granados of Guatemala whose membership in UNSCOP in 1947 helped produce the famous partition resolution of the same year.

Throughout the years Israel has enjoyed solid diplomatic, social and commercial relations with Central and South America. Thousands of people from these zones have traveled to Israel over the years to learn about Israeli expertise in agriculture, science and medicine.

Israel has been astute enough to notice that since the early 1960s the Greater Miami area has become a haven for both Cuban refugees who fled Castro and tens of thousands of other Hispanic people seeking refuge and respite from uncongenial commercial and political climates at home.

Miami and Florida have been the benefactors of this population surge. Without gainsaying the problems which have developed from such a rapid buildup of new peoples, the fact remains that Hispanic elements are now a major factor in the makeup of south Florida. Some say that Miami is now the capital of Central and South America.

In recognition of this reality Israel has wisely begun to develop a special relationship with that emerging Hispanic community.

It's a most commendable idea.

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Serious divisions on strategy, even tactics

Tension grows in unity govt.

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

One crisis after another has wracked Israel's national unity government. And of late, the tension has grown worse.

The question frequently asked in Israeli political circles is whether this hybrid coalition can survive until Oct. 14, 1986, when Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir are scheduled to switch jobs as part of their Sept. 13, 1984 rotation agreement.

Politicians and pundits alike have been wondering about its longevity ever since the Labor Party and the Likud bloc elevated the exigencies of political survival into a high art. They have been wondering because, when it comes to the crucial matter of peace in the Middle East, Labor and Likud are basically divided, not only over strategy, but on even tactics as well.

Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset's foreign affairs and security committee, probably put it best when, in a recent essay, he wrote: "While we are united in our insecurity, whether rational or irrational, we are disunited about almost everything else. There is no parliamentary country in the world whose two main political groups are more sharply divided on so many fundamental issues."

Like a quarrelsome couple bound to each other for harshly pragmatic reasons, Peres and Shamir entered into their matrimonial bond quite unwillingly.

Shamir, having succeeded an ailing and depressed Menachem Begin as Prime Minister, hoped he could win a mandate to govern four or five more years. Peres, having painstakingly rebuilt a demoralized Labor Party, hoped he could sweep Likud out of office. With the Israeli electorate decreeing that neither party was entitled to a clearcut victory, Peres and Shamir were forced to swallow their pride and adapt to a situation which few observers foresaw.

Having agreed to share power, Peres and Shamir got down to the business of governing a nation beset by economic woes and at odds with itself over the occupation of southern Lebanon. The pair, after much wrangling, managed to find a measure of consensus on the economy and Lebanon. An austerity program was agreed upon — one that only now is beginning to have a positive impact — and a plan for a phased withdrawal from Lebanon was worked out.

With these two major accomplishments, Peres and Shamir have partially disarmed critics who predicted nothing but constant strife and bickering during the life of the unity government. But the story, as they say, is far from finished. Labor and Likud have run into serious disputes regarding normalization of relations with Egypt, the sole Arab country officially at peace with Israel. More important, Labor and Likud have repeatedly clashed over a mutually acceptable approach to a settlement with Jordan and the Palestinians.

Israel's problems with Egypt, which were greatly exacerbated by Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, are bedevilled by the Taba territorial dispute. Taba, a beachfront south of Eilat, is claimed by Israel and Egypt. Egypt wants to solve the conflict through arbitration. This solution appeals to Peres. Shamir, however, claims that conciliation is the answer.

Peres believes that Taba may well be the key to improving Israel's often cool, testy relationship with Egypt. Shamir is less sanguine about Egypt's intentions. The impasse over Taba, which seems like a pretty straightforward issue, has triggered several coalition rows and at least one crisis. Yitzhak Rabin, the defence minister, has said the unity government may well fall if this diplomatic paralysis goes on much longer.

But the real problem between Labor and Likud revolves around the status of the West Bank and, to a lesser extent, the Gaza Strip.

Labor is prepared to give up non-strategic parts of these areas in order to reach a settlement with Jordan and defuse the nagging Palestinian problem. But Likud, out of political, military and religious sentiments, wants to keep the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In general, Peres has far more faith in King Hussein's desire for peace than Shamir. Peres found positive elements in the Jordanian's recent United Nations speech, namely his willingness to open prompt and direct talks with Israel. But Shamir did not, claiming there had been "nothing new" in it. Peres, in his UN address, voiced a willingness to consider Jordan's demand for peace talks under an international umbrella if the Soviet Union reestablished relations with Israel. Shamir declared that Israel would not be a party to such negotiations even if Moscow changed its policy toward Israel. And David Levy, Shamir's Likud leadership rival, went as far as to accuse Peres of "seriously violating" the coalition agreement.

Peres' disagreements with Shamir pale in comparison with those he has had with Ariel Sharon, the most fiery member of his deeply divided cabinet.

Sharon, the trade and commerce minister, has ignored the niceties of parliamentary government by openly and unambiguously accusing Peres of deceit. In August, Sharon attacked Peres of carrying out the notorious 1939 British White Paper, which restricted Jewish immigration and land purchase. He leveled this charge after seven Knesset members were evicted from a flat they had occupied in the centre of Hebron. Peres, challenging Sharon to resign, said that Sharon's diatribe went "against the very idea of collective responsibility and the minimal level of cooperation needed to keep such a partnership going."

In October, Sharon made a series of further accusations, fiercely criticizing Peres for conducting what he said were secret peace talks with Jordanian and Palestinian representatives. Threatening to fire Sharon and thus precipitate the dissolution of the government, Peres demanded a full apology from the ex-general. Instead, Sharon issued "clarifications," and Peres had to be content with that equivocable apology.

For whatever reason, Peres backed off. The Prime Minister, who has been showing well in public opinion polls, claims he is committed to his agreement with Shamir. But, as he suggested last September, he may not honor it if he is convinced that Likud is obstructing the peace process with Egypt and Jordan.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir have made Israel's unity government work despite crises. [IPPA photo]

As he put it in an interview: "I have no intention of carrying out just one part of the agreement... It will either be honored in its entirety, or not at all. I have no intention of sitting here and carrying out just one paragraph of the agreement."

Peres' threat to put an end to Labor's rocky marriage of convenience with Likud has been echoed time and time again by members of his own party.

Uzi Baram, secretary-general of the Labor Party, has warned the government will fall apart if Likud tries to "veto" diplomatic progress toward peace. Baram, who has charged Ariel Sharon with "sticking a knife in the nation's back," has written that the price Israel has paid for the unity government is "a standstill with regard to the peace process..."

Yaacov Tsur, the minister of absorption, has called on Peres to reconsider Labor's expedient partnership with Likud, saying "there is no doubt that Likud has adopted a position that blocks any chance of a (diplomatic) breakthrough."

Whether Peres feels so strongly is debatable. Peres, after all, is a very cautious politician. Nevertheless, there is little doubt that he wants to leave his imprint on the peace process. If he is to do so, he will have to act decisively in the next 10 months. Virtually every observer thinks that prospects for a settlement will recede when Shamir takes over as Prime Minister.

But at this point, there is no certainty that Shamir will in fact replace Peres. If Peres genuinely comes to believe that Likud is hampering the peace process, he may go for broke: break up the government and try to form a narrow coalition with the religious parties before he calls an election. In Israeli politics, this is not considered a far-fetched scenario.

Many devout Jews came from conversion ulpan

By
DVORA WAYSMAN

JERUSALEM —

In the early days of the state, when people talked of mixed marriages, they meant between Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews. Over the years, things have changed, and the problem of intermarriage was "imported," largely via the kibbutzim. Once they introduced the volunteer program, Gentiles flocked by the thousand to enjoy cheap working holidays. In many cases, relationship developed with kibbutz members, often ending in marriage.

There are no real statistics available on intermarriage in Israel, as many couples — unable or unwilling for the non-Jewish spouse to convert — fly to Cyprus or other nearby countries to marry in a civil ceremony. But according to Rabbi Avishai Doum, head of the Jewish Agency's conversion ulpan, about 300 people are converted by them annually, with at least another 100 converted through local batei din (rabbinical courts) or the beth din of the ultra-Orthodox Haredit — surprisingly, sometimes an easier process than through the official rabbinate.

At many secular kibbutzim, there is no pressure on a mixed couple to marry at all to "regularize their relationship" unless children are involved and the non-Jewish partner is the mother. The kibbutz is concerned about the status of the children, and the children of a Jewish mother are halachically Jewish no matter who their father is — Jew or Gentile, married or single. If a mixed couple decide to marry in a civil ceremony abroad, usually there is no requirement by the kibbutz that the non-Jewish husband convert to Judaism, whereas pressure would be applied to a non-Jewish wife.

Of the 300 people converted annually through the Jewish Agency's conversion ulpanim, about 70% are women and at least two-thirds seek conversion in order to marry a Jewish boy. It is not an easy process, and indeed is made far harder where marriage is the motivation. It can take up to two years, with seven appearances before the Beth Din before they are satisfied that the would-be convert is ready for a sincere commitment to Judaism.

For someone who is attracted to Jewish theology, without wanting to marry a Jewish partner at that point, fewer obstacles are put in the way although even then it is not a simple matter.

Hane Hubble from Birmingham, who was introduced to Israeli life as a volunteer on Kibbutz Nirim, met her husband on a bus. Although they decided to marry a month later, it took 20 months before the process of conversion was complete. Now she is known as Osnat Ben Zachariah and she and her husband have two children. They describe themselves as "traditional" Jews.

Ingrid and Rafi, another mixed couple, are Orthodox Jews today . . . in fact Ingrid dresses very modestly and even covers her hair, but their story has an unusual twist.

They met when Ingrid, daughter of a Lutheran minister in Scandinavia, came for a summer's volunteering on the kibbutz where Rafi was completing his army service in Nahal. They fell in love, decided to marry and flew to Cyprus for the civil ceremony. They returned to the kibbutz to live.

When Ingrid became pregnant, she decided she wanted the child to be Jewish although Rafi, who was totally uninterested in religion and a professed atheist, was against the idea. She enrolled for the conversion ulpan at Kibbutz Sa'ad, and they lived at this religious kibbutz for six months.

Although Rafi found the religious atmosphere restrictive and stifling, Ingrid thrived on it and found it a beautiful and meaningful way of life. "The day I got my conversion certificate was the happiest day of my life," she maintains. "I felt both a Jewess and an Israeli — I really felt I belonged."

With their new daughter, they returned to their former secular kibbutz to live, but Ingrid suddenly hated it. "I missed the religious dimension. It sickened me to eat non-kosher food. Shabbat lost its meaning with no synagogue, people smoking, radios playing. I wanted to practice the precepts I had studied . . . . to light candles, to go to the mikveh, to be a Jewish woman."

Finally, she gave Rafi an ultimatum . . . either they would live as Orthodox Jews, or she would take their child and leave him. "He was in shock," she recalls, laughing. "Here was I — the shikse — telling him to shape up! We had a blazing row — it lasted for weeks. But I won!" she added.

They left the kibbutz, moved to Jerusalem, and Rafi took some part-time courses at a yeshiva for the newly-observant. Today, he wears a kipa and tzitzit and enjoys his new-found Judaism as much as his wife — and their five children!

When Rabbi Shlomo Goren was Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi, he established a network of conversion ulpanim for kibbutzim which he personally supervised. However, it was alleged that a number of insincere converts, even missionaries, were slipping through, and after the election of new Chief Rabbis, new criteria were introduced based on the findings of a special commission.

To eliminate abuses, the requirements for conversion have become tougher which ensures that the candidates are sincere. Zalam Quittner, who was personal aide to Rabbi Goren, now assists Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Abraham Shapiro, and would-be converts still appeal to him for the certificates that will enable them to be married by a rabbi as well as to receive immigrant status with its rights and privileges. Of the six rabbinical courts dealing with conversion under Goren, only three now function, with one special court convened periodically.

Conversion to Judaism has never been encouraged nor made easy. The Sages enjoin us to turn away converts, but once the stranger has successfully traversed the arduous road to become a Jew, then we are instructed to welcome them warmly to the fold and never again to refer to their non-Jewish origins. Some of the most devout and dedicated Jews in Israel today joined the Jewish people by way of the conversion ulpan.

GALA OCCASION

At the Simon Wiesenthal Center's recent gala tribute to the American liberators and Holocaust survivors of World War II, MC Barbara Walters (right), was joined by Chairman Elizabeth Taylor (left), and famed Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, who flew in from Vienna. Wiesenthal was one of 11 survivors and liberators who received awards in an emotional ceremony attended by over 1,600.

Beth Hatefutsoth museum features stamp exhibition

JERUSALEM (JNS) —

One of Israel's greatest museums — Beth Hatefutsoth, the Nahum Goldman Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv — is the setting for an extraordinary exhibition: "Jews and Judaism on Stamps of the World."

Based on the private collection belonging to Dr. Stephen Roth, the director of the London-based Institute of Jewish Affairs (the research arm of the World Jewish Congress), the exhibition consists of nearly 1,000 perforated impressions of Jewish achievement over the past 100 years.

Stamps from Italy, Belgium and Russia celebrate artists such as Modigliani, Liebermann, Zadkine and Agam. France, Germany (East and West), Hungary, Greece and Poland pay homage to Mendelssohn, Mahler and Schoenberg, among the composers.

At the exhibition, Proust can be seen next to Sholem Aleichem and Kafka, while Spinoza enjoys the company of Bergson and Buber.

You do not need to be a stamp collector to realize that this is an unusual testimony to almost every form of creative Jewish energy the world has seen.

Karl Marx and his contemporary, Heinrich Heine, are most lavishly displayed, followed by Einstein, Freud and a great many Nobel laureates in the sciences, literature and philosophy.

There are also a number of curios: a stamp issued in Tierra del Fuego, Argentina, to commemorate a legendary Romanian-born explorer, Julius Popper, who became the first "ruler" of the exotic South American territory.

Romania, of all countries, was the one to pay philatelic tribute to the painter, Camille Pissarro. More surprisingly still, Duvalier's Haiti issued a stamp in honor of the 11 Israeli sportsmen massacred by Arab terrorists at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games.

Other memorable stamps are one showing President Masaryk of Czechoslovakia holding on his lap a little girl rescued from Nazi Germany and another issued by the invading Nazi troops bearing the extraordinary words: "Wir sind frei" ("We are free").

The oldest stamp in the display was printed in 1897 by a private postal service in Breslau to commemorate the Jewish New Year 5658. It bears the Hebrew inscription L'Shana Tova.

This moving exhibition, which will be open until next spring, is well worth a visit.

"It's a Western Wall . . . like all Western Walls"

By
RABBI BERNARD BASKIN

We stand on the threshold of a new year. We are entering into the unknown future together. How can we travel most successfully in 1986? What must we leave behind in order to make our journey easier?

In the first place we must leave behind the burden and encumbrance of our fears. The atomic age has catapulated us into an era of cataclysmic change. We are fearful for the security of our own lives, the wellbeing of our children, the future of humankind itself.

There is an old folktale about the Angel of Death who revealed to a king that he was going to slay 500 of his subjects. After the terror of the plague swept through the community, the Angel of Death reappeared. The king berated him, "You lied to me. Instead of five hundred lives, you took five thousand." "No," responded the Angel, "I took five hundred, and not one more. It was fear that destroyed the rest."

One antidote to our fears in the new year is to place them in proper perspective. There is hardly a problem we face today that is new. Not every crisis means the end of the world. An understanding of history provides the long view. It cautions us not to exagerate or distort the problems of our own time. There is wisdom in the old maxim, "Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday."

Some years ago, a New York doctor made a study about the fears and worries of his patients. Here is what he found. Forty percent of their worries were about things that never happened. Thirty percent were about matters entirely beyond their control. Twelve percent were related to physical ills which were caused or aggravated by their emotional attitudes. Ten percent were about friends or relatives who were quite able to look after themselves. Only 8% were about matters that really needed their attention — but worry, even in these cases, was not the remedy to apply.

At the Hayden Planetarium in New York, an old woman came up to the narrator after a performance and asked, "How many years before the sun blows up?" "Twenty billion," he replied. "Thank heavens," she said with a sigh of relief, "I thought you said twenty million."

A biologist once observed an ant carrying a piece of straw. The ant came to a crack in the earth, which was too wide for crossing. It stood for a time, as though pondering the situation. Then it placed the straw across the crack and used it for a bridge. The impressed biologist exclaimed, "Even the burden can become the road to progress." What we need is a sense of perspective.

Another shortcoming that we should relinquish in the new year is an insensitivity to the grandeur of life. To lose one's sense of wonder at life's joys, beauties, excitement, and possibilities is indeed to lose life itself.

A pilgrim who visited the Holy Land was asked what he thought about the famous Western Wall in Jerusalem. He responded, "It's a Western Wall just like all Western Walls." I once heard a tourist assert, "When you've seen one European country you've seen them all." Helen Keller gave us good counsel when she said, "I who am blind, can give one hint to those who see: Use your eyes as if tomorrow you would be stricken blind." She was pleading for a sense of the wonder of life.

A famous obstetrician, who during a long and honored career had delivered 8,000 babies, was asked whether his work had not become routine. He replied, "Every new birth is a new wonder and a new miracle to me!" He had the sense of the wonder of life!

Finally, we must leave behind us despair and pessimism. On an examination paper a young girl discovered the question, "Upon what do hibernating animals subsist during the winter?" She thought about the question for a long time and then wrote, "On the hope of a coming spring."

There is no conquering or overcoming the spirit of hope. It makes its way through the stones of despair. You could cover the whole world with asphalt but sooner or later the green grass of hope and faith would break through.

These are the qualities that we must carry with us, despite everything, into 1986: a proper perspective, a feeling for the wonder of life, and resolute faith. May our journey together include health, joy and fulfilment.

Opinion

Academic documents 150 years of progress

Britain's Jews have come a long way politically

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

Britain is the cradle of Western democracy, but, for British Jews, democracy was an exotic notion until a century and a half ago. The simple fact of the matter is that Britain excluded practicing Jews from the political process well into the 19th century. Benjamin Disraeli, who was of Jewish Sephardic stock, may have been one of Britain's greatest prime ministers, but he had been baptized at the age of 13.

Disraeli notwithstanding, Jews were shut out of the political system, being denied the vote until 1835. Another 23 years would elapse before the first Jew took his seat in the House of Commons, the mother of parliaments. And 51 more years would pass until a British prime minister would invite the first professing Jew, Herbert Samuel, into the cabinet.

In political terms, the Jewish community in Britain has advanced rapidly since the various disabilities shackling Jews were gradually lifted. Although Britain has not had a Jewish prime minister, the British electorate has sent many Jews to Parliament. And a succession of governments, such as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's, have appointed Jews to the highest positions.

In *The Jewish Community In British Politics (Oxford University Press, $48.75)*, Geoffrey Alderman, a University of London academic, competently documents the progress Jews have made in the political process in the past 150 years. Rigorously researched and well written, this is probably the definitive work on the topic.

As Alderman points out, British Jewry in the 19th century had a distinct foreign character. At the top of the social scale were wealthy, more assimilated Jews who were engaged in wholesale commerce, stockbroking and the diamond trade. Below them were shopkeepers, silversmiths and ships' agents. At the very bottom were pedlars and old clothes dealers.

Jews who were too busy scratching out a living exhibited no real interest in politics. But those who were comfortably off and possessed the property qualifications for the franchise lobbied for the vote, he says.

Jewish converts to Christianity had no such difficulty. In 1770, Samson Gideon, the son of a famous Jewish financier, was elected to the House of Commons. In 1819, David Ricardo, the noted economist, became an MP. But their political success merely underlined the disabilities under which Anglo Jewry still labored. In politics, government, and a wide range of professional callings, the Test and Corporation Acts represented an insurmountable barrier to practicing Jews, for they required Jews to swear their allegiance to God and country "on the true faith of a Christian."

The lot of the Jew improved slightly in 1845, when parliament promulgated the Jewish Municipal Relief Act, which allowed professing Jews to hold any and every local office. And there was further progress a year later with the passage of the Religious Opinions Relief Act, which placed Jews on the same footing as Protestant dissenters so far as places of worship, schools and charities were concerned.

As important as these bills were, the great watershed in British politics occurred in 1858. This was the year when Lionel Rothschild was finally able to take his rightful seat in the House of Commons *as a Jew*. The Jews' Disabilities Act, which enabled him to claim it as a citizen equal under the law, was the last legal obstacle in the way of politically ambitious Jews.

A decade after this victory, Baron Henry de Worms was named the first Jewish Conservative parliamentary candidate. And in 1874 Saul Isaac became the first Jewish Conservative MP. Alderman says the early Jewish MPs, most of whom were Liberals, were not a "particularly inspiring group." They were not, he writes, "gifted parliamentarians."

Liberalism at one time was so popular with Jewish voters that Abraham Benisch, the editor of the Jewish Chronicle, could write in 1865: "The Jew feels instinctively that, politically, he is nothing if he is not a Liberal." Before long, however, Jews shifted to the Conservatives, then to the Labor Party.

Alderman claims that the Jewish shift to Conservative politics was "a conscious and deliberate act," predicated on their advancement toward social integration and acceptance. In the elections of 1918 and 1922, over half the Jewish MPs were Conservatives. But Alderman says that most of them were staunch anti-Zionists and could not be relied upon "to speak sympathetically on Jewish matters of any description."

During the early 1930s, the Conservative Party still managed to attract a good many Jewish voters, despite the fact that it harbored anti-semites and their fellow travelers. One of

Margaret Thatcher

the most notorious British anti-semites of his day, Captain Archibald Henry Maule Ramsay, sat as a Conservative MP for Peebles and Southern from 1931 to 1945. Ramsay, a member of the racist Nordic League, was interned in 1940 and not released until 1944. Alderman says he celebrated the end of the war with Germany by tabling a motion — which no other MP supported — calling for the reimposition of the 1290 Statute of Jewry, which had expelled the Jews of Britain.

Alderman says that Conservative Party fortunes in the Jewish community waned during the Depression, and by 1970 only two Jewish Conservatives — Sir Keith Joseph and Sir Henry d'Avigdor Goldsmid — were represented in the House of Commons.

A lawyer and member of a London synagogue, Joseph served Edward Heath as secretary of state for social services. Margaret Thatcher appointed him minister of industry when she was elected prime minister. Thatcher herself was the first leader of a major political party to sit for a constituency (Finchley, a London suburb) where the Jewish vote (16%) was crucial.

Alderman says the Labor Party, in the mid-1930s, became the "normal political home" for the mass of working-class and middle-class Jews. But, in an unsubstantiated claim, he asserts that the "special relationship" between Labor and Anglo Jewry was "buried" after the 1956 Arab-Israeli war.

Emanuel Shinwell, who was elected to parliament in 1922, was the first Jewish Labor MP. Whitechapel, Britain's most heavily Jewish-populated riding, swung to Labor in the same year. In the post World War II period, Shinwell reached the rank of minister of defence.

By 1945, Alderman discloses, all but two of the Jewish MPs in the House of Commons were Laborites. And only two of them sat for constituencies with substantial Jewish electorates. Many of the Jewish Laborites elected in 1945 went on to achieve national reputations as political activists — men like Barnet Janner, Harold Lever, Ian Mikardo, Sydney Silverman and Maurice Edelman.

Alderman, in his discussion of Jews and leftist politics, comments that Jewish immigrants in the late 19th century brought with them three political elements that "had barely been discernible" in the community: Socialism, trade unionism and Zionism.

Although this is far from true today, Anglo Jewish communal leaders prior to World War II were repelled by Zionism. As Alderman puts it: "The possibility of Jewish nationhood struck at the heart of the process of social, cultural and political assimilation of which they were so proud. Without a Jewish state they were well-bred British Jews. With it, they automatically became exiles in the land of their birth, and their loyalty to Britain could be questioned."

Jews were also attracted to the flip side of Zionism — Communism. Alderman cautions that a fundamental distinction should be drawn between "those few" Jews who joined the Communist Party out of idealistic and intellectual considerations, and those Jews who supported it because of its fierce opposition to the British Union of Fascists.

Alderman correctly states that the Communist Party took the British Union of Fascists far more seriously than the Board of Deputies of British Jews. "Whilst the Deputies strained every muscle to avoid confrontation with (Sir Oswald) Mosley (the BUF leader), the Communists provided a framework for action on the streets, and at the same time tackled the social ills upon which fascism fed."

Benjamin Disraeli

The result, for a while, was a temporary Jewish "infatuation" with Communism. But as Phil Piratin, the Jewish Communist MP noted, the percentage of Jewish members of the Communist Party corresponded to the percentage of Jews in the general population — about 1% in 1945.

Alderman, in his analyses of Jewish MPs, says the Jewish lobby in Parliament is "much less monolithic" than appears to be the case. Some, in fact, have taken little or no part in promoting Israel's cause, while others have been contemptuous of the Jewish Establishment. In 1973, during the Yom Kippur War, two Jewish MPs, including Sir Keith Joseph, voted in favor of an arms embargo.

He agrees with the assertion that most Jewish MPs consider themselves to be "politicians who happen to be Jewish rather than Jewish politicians."

However, Alderman takes issue with the view,

Sir Keith Joseph

propounded by the Board of Deputies, that there is no "Jewish vote" in Britain. Jewish voters, he argues, have always been capable of "independent political behavior" which has been at variance with national or regional trends.

Furthermore, since 1974, Jews have exercised their franchise "in ways which reflect and serve their interests not just as British citizens but as Jewish citizens," he observes.

Alderman, unfortunately, fails to explain this phenomenon thoroughly. But he adds: "Far from being a contradiction of the emancipation won over a hundred years ago, the continued existence of a Jewish vote (in Britain) is, surely, emancipation's natural corollary."

Whether or not there is a Jewish vote in Britain, it is certainly clear that British Jewry has come a long, long way in the past 150 years. Geoffrey Alderman proves this point beyond a doubt.

Wary Israeli soothsayers chose to hedge predictions

By
CARL ALPERT

JERUSALEM —

With the close of the year 1985 we once again take a good look at the predictions made a year ago by Israel's astrologers. Almost everyone reads the predictions with bated breath and curiosity, but few are those who preserve the stargazers' forecasts, and check them at year's end with what actually transpired.

The comparison is enlightening.

First of all, let's not reject horoscopy out of hand, for it is in a great Jewish tradition. Indeed, was not Father Abraham the first stargazer? As told in Genesis 15:5, he heard God's commandment: "Look now toward heaven and count the stars, if thou be able to count them. . . ." There followed a great prediction regarding the future of the Jewish people. During Talmudic times and the Middle ages, Jewish scholars were divided with regard to the practice of astrology.

In Israel, in our own time, astrology is seriously accepted by many respectable people. The publicity attended upon the annual foretelling of events also serves as great public relations for the professional practitioners who command fancy fees for their advice in personal, political and business matters.

This year it has proven difficult to compare predictions with realizations. The soothsayers have been caught at so many false auguries in the past that they have become wary of preciseness in their prognostications. Many of them hedged. Some gave solemn expression to matters which were obvious. Those who dared once again to go out on a limb, usually fell off. Judge for yourself.

Ilan Pecker, one of the leading practitioners of the art, was quite explicit last year about what 1985 held in store. This was the year in which Mubarak, Assad, Hussein, Arafat and the King of Saudia would all lose their lives. He was also confident that Israel's national unity compromise government could not last, was doomed to collapse, and would be followed by new elections. This is because the planet Saturn is exercising its baneful influence, against which the government of Israel is helpless.

On the other hand, he did succeed in predicting a major change in Israel's monetary system — as did most economists in the country. Readers who followed his advice bought heavily into oil stocks, for he was convinced that this was the year for a great oil strike in Israel. On the international front: he knew that relations with Egypt would not improve, and might even worsen.

His greatest competitor, Herzl Lipshitz, was more cautious, but with equal lack of success. The state of the economy did not worry him. He expected no great unemployment and only a minor recession. Things will really pick up in 1986, he said, but who can wait that long? There would be terrible natural disasters elsewhere in the world . . . but not in Israel.

The female clairvoyants had an active year. Miriam Tamir, who claims to have foretold the visit of Sadat to Jerusalem, the war in Lebanon and the killing of Bashir Gemayel, opened her 1985 forecast with assurances that Peres would prove to be a surprising good leader, would advance the cause of peace with Jordan, and would keep the national unity government together. On the other hand, she did not expect Modai to last long as minister of finance. Syria's Assad was supposed to have died before the end of the year, and both Arafat and Hussein were to be subjects of assassination attempts.

Ruth Eli was not the only one who anticipated a major military action by Israel, short of war, during the year. The air strike against Tunisia could be marked up as fulfilment. However, she predicted Modai's resignation, a breakdown of the national unity government, and withdrawal of Dr. Joseph Burg from public life.

Miriam Binyamini was confident that American financial aid to Israel would be halted, a prominent national personality would die, aliya would increase vastly, oil would be found, and earthquakes would strike Jerusalem and Safed.

One Jerusalem Kabbalist, poring into the Zohar, scored 100% accuracy in his prediction. He cautiously asserted that during the year Israel would suffer no major natural catastrophe. He was right!

Unconsciously, all of us at one time or another call upon the aid of the stars. The word mazel, in Hebrew, means a sign of the zodiac, and every time we wish some one mazel tov, we are in effect expressing the hope that he will be favored by the stars.

A surrender to the evil of blind prejudice

You should never be ashamed of your name

By
J. B. SALSBERG

I hope, my esteemed readers, that you won't lend your ears to our detractors who dare to suggest that I "pick on good people and good institutions." You, my tried and true friends, know that it just isn't my nature to do that. If I ever criticize (or lampoon) anyone or any segment of our righteous peoplehood it is done with a lump in my throat and a suppressed tear in my eye. If and when I do raise my voice it is for the good of our collective and, above everything, good for the soul.

J.B. Salsberg

* * *

The atypical introduction to this column was prompted by a few less-than-friendly remarks from a chronic critic about my treatment of the sheitel matter a couple of weeks ago. But I did, in fact end that much-talked-about column with a support of the sheitel . . . up to a point, of course. To defuse any criticism of what I intend to write this week I hasten with this preface: I'm not critical of the Cohens, the Levys, the Israels, or of any other Jewish man, woman or child. Indeed, some of my best friends are Jews. If anything I might say may be considered to be critical then it is all meant to be for the good of us all. Amen.

Now we can proceed.

If Gretzky, Gzowski rate highly what's wrong with Cohen or Levy?

My introductory statement is that I'm often concerned, irritated or even angry when I behold what we often do to conceal our good, comfortable and, yes, honorable Jewish names.

I ask you, my loyal readers, is it wrong or, heaven forbid, a crime to feel, to think and to react that way? I say no and a thousand times no! It's just that I think that it's high time to rehabilitate our traditional names. Indeed, I am convinced that it is quite safe to do so.

Yes, my friends, times have, thank heaven, changed for the better and if Gretzky is the most coveted name in the country, because he is the best hockey player, and Gzowski is the most respected and most popular, coast-to-coast broadcaster and Schatzky is a top-flight and most appreciated broadcaster in Ontario then why shouldn't Cohen, or Levy, or Israel step forward and seek prominence under their honorable, age-old names? No reason at all.

Having made this very sensible and very dignified statement I feel that I also owe you, my friendly readers, a few explanatory words. Here they are:

I do not believe that changing one's name — given name or surname — constitutes a violation of any law or commandment. (If I'm wrong I will be thankful to my friendly rabbis (there are unfriendly ones, too) for any and all corrections.

As for surnames, they are of very recent vintage and, more often than not, we didn't pick them but they were "chosen for us" and often by unfriendly officials. Nevertheless they have, in most cases, become our identity and, unless one is ashamed of his identity, one doesn't change it as if it were a label on a garment.

(If you promise not to spread it I will tell you something. Years ago, when I was in politics over my head, my bright campaign strategists gently hinted that if I were to agree to change one letter of my surname — the "g" for a "y" — and thus turn Salsberg into Salsbery, I would win at least 2,000 additional votes. My friendly advisors weren't wrong. But I gave them such a tongue lashing that the matter was never raised again. I wasn't going to misrepresent myself, I told them sternly).

As for the given name, which is even more personal and more meaningful, I had a very rigid approach to that one. My father was Abraham and my mother was Sarah and I, their eldest, was named Joseph Boruch and that's what it will remain. My father's father was Benjamin and my mother's father was Shimon and I have no desire nor need to break the continuity that goes back to the first Abraham and the first Sarah.

I know, as well as the next person, that Shakespeare said that "a rose by any other name would smell as sweet," and I won't argue with Shakespeare. But I also know that some of our sages are supposed to have said that our forefathers earned their deliverance from Egyptian bondage and they never changed their names. So, there you are. . . .

To change one's name in order to save one's life (Hitlerites, pogromtchikes, etc.) is, in my humble view, not only no crime but a mitzvah. But when one changes names for no good reason and when life is not in danger, then it is, in my view, a surrender to the evil of blind prejudice and to discrimination. It's capitulation.

I find it especially irritating to find some prominent leaders, in the spiritual and temporal regions, who replace their good biblical names with those of Teutonic, Slavonic and Anglo-Saxon origin. Ech . . . (I knew a Cohen who changed his name, in the U.S., to Cunningham! Ham, wasn't good enough . . . it had to be a Cunning sort of ham. Again, ech . . .)

In conclusion: Times have changed, Prejudices in our country, though not vanquished, have been reduced enormously. So if Gretzky, Gzowski and our own David Schatzky can reach their special sort of summits despite their "foreign names" then why shouldn't Cohen, Levy and Israel be what they are — Cohen, Levy and Israel? No reason whatsoever.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters are welcome if they are in English or French, no more than 250 words, typewritten with lines double spaced and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit letters, which must bear the sender's address and handwritten signatures.

* * *

HE'S "DUMBFOUNDED, AGHAST"

Re your Nov. 28 editorial headed "Grave Disservice" mocking U.S. Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis for her attack on the Mormons:

I am completely dumbfounded, aghast and profoundly disturbed with your comparison of Esther Yungreis with Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

One need only know a little of the background related to what the Mormons have been trying to establish in Jerusalem by way of a "cultural centre." The Mormons have made no secret about the use of their proposed centre: to proselytize the Jews!

The overwhelming population in Israel is steadfastly opposed to the Mormon project. The establishment of such a centre is a direct threat to our Jewish heritage.

Jungreis has simply spoken against a certain sect of Christians who plan to uproot our beliefs and traditions. You have compared her to a being who would like nothing better than to uproot our whole nation!

I believe The CJN and its editorial staff owe Esther Jungreis a humble apology!

And with regard to Max Dimont's statement in reference to intermarriage that he would "rather see a Jew disappear in a bedroom than in a gas chamber": I would simply like to remind Mr. Dimont and our dear editor that those who perished in the gas chamber gave their lives so that our race and religion may live on.

Intermarriage not only breaks down the religion, but it destroys the race.

Irwin Diamond
Toronto

* * *

EDITORIAL "UNACCEPTABLE"

With regard to your editorial entitled "Grave disservice" of Nov. 28 in relation to rebbetzin Esther Jungreis, I feel the following points must be made.

How in all fairness can you compare Mrs. Jungreis' comment about the Mormons being "insidious" with Louis Farrakhan's terming of Judaism as "a gutter religion" or Jimmy Swaggart's belief that "all non-Christians are going to hell?"

While I cannot speak for Mrs. Jungreis, her use of the term "insidious" implies that the Mormons more than likely have as one of their goals the proselytizing of Jews, "waiting for an opportunity to ensnare," as the Webster's dictionary suggests.

How else is explained the translation of their religious works into the Hebrew language?

It is an affront to Mrs. Jungreis, and many others, I believe, to compare her comments with those of Farrakhan or Swaggart.

She speaks out of concern for the Jewish people and our survival. They speak out of hatred, or, at best, ignorance. Your comparison, therefore, is totally groundless and unacceptable.

Your use of the term "harangues" referring to Mrs. Jungreis' constant preoccupation with the problem of intermarriage, implies a negative connotation.

It is indeed unfortunate that an editorialist of The CJN sees fit to term an individual's emphasis on and efforts against intermarriage as "harangues." Quite unabashedly and clearly, your editorialist's non-observant and non-traditionalist viewpoints and attitudes are readily revealed and apparent.

His/her personal views are his/her own business. However, it is incumbent that these views not be allowed to stand as necessarily representative of the entire Jewish community.

Saulie Zajdel
Montreal

* * *

HE'S "DEEPLY DISTURBED"

I was deeply disturbed by the tone and substance of your Nov. 28 editorial "Grave Disservice."

Multitudes of Jews over a score of centuries have believed passionately in the authenticity (i.e. superiority) of their faith. To link that belief with the butchery comitted by others is to inflict a gross insult, while calling into question the very essence of Judaism.

I fully recognize the constraints on criticism imposed by the concept of editorial freedom. The editor's views are to be his, and not necessarily mine.

In a Jewish community newspaper, however, they must be based on knowledge and sensitivity. I dare say that, if the editor were to evince so shallow an understanding of the community sensitivities toward Israel and the Holocaust as he does of the traditional values of the Jewish faith, he would no longer be the editor of The Canadian Jewish News.

A reassessment of editorial qualifications is decidedly in order.

Philip Atler
Toronto

Editor's note: We herewith call a moratorium on letters taking issue with our "Grave Disservice" editorial. Enough already!

OUTRAGED BY BEGIN STORY

We are writing to express our outrage with your Nov. 28 article, "Begin said to be suffering from Alzheimer's disease."

One of our members of Young Herut of Canada has recently been privileged to hear Mr. Begin's views on issues as wide ranging as U.S.-Israel relations, Ethiopian Jews, and the Canadian tuna affair. Thus we know that there is no factual basis for the story.

But that is beside the point. The article, which was apparently distributed by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (no writer signed his name), is a classic example of the kind of "reporting" that a responsible editor would discard in the trash, and an honorable newspaper would refuse to run.

A careful reading of the article reveals that the premise is based entirely on supposition. The opinion that Mr. Begin is suffering from a progressive brain illness is attributed to "responsible medical circles."

But no individual is quoted, or even paraphrased. There is no suggestion that the allegedly responsible medical circles include anyone who has spoken to anyone who has examined him.

Menachem Begin...Reader questions news agency story claiming that the reclusive former Prime Minister — seen here in his most recent public appearance last month — is suffering from a progressive brain illness.

Journalism of this sort sinks below the standards of the National Inquirer, which, at least, offers no pretention of integrity. Furthermore, it is the kind of smear which would not be countenanced against any other Israeli leader, living or dead, and which the Jewish community should not abide in what presents itself as a "community newspaper."

M. Levitan
Executive Director
Young Herut of Canada
Toronto

* * *

KAHANE NO RACIST

Re John Bayer's Nov. 28 letter headed "Double standard" equating Rabbi Meir Kahane with Louis Farrakhan and Rev. Jesse Jackson:

Both Farrakhan and Jackson are proven anti-semites. They deserve the title of racist.

But when Kahane says the Arabs "multiply like rabbits," that's not racism, but the unfortunate truth. The truth is that the Arabs will be a dangerous majority in Israel within 15 or 20 years.

Consider the repercussions this will have on Israel, politically, economically and militarily, Mr. Bayer.

Defending Jew-haters against a rabbi, activist or not, is not proper, Mr. Bayer!

Shlomo Yehudah Yisroel
Toronto

* * *

"UGLY KEEGSTRA AFFAIR"

I'm sorry to see that David Bersuson, a University of Calgary history professor and executive member of Calgary's Jewish Community Council, has written a book about the ugly Keegstra affair, *A Trust Betrayed* ("Bercuson: Keegstra trial counter-productive," CJN, Nov. 28).

I hated to read the court reports in The CJN and now I hate the prospect of the same facts being aired again about the same ugly affair.

E. Meyers
Calgary

* * *

THANKS TO CYNTHIA

I would like to thank Cynthia Gasner for the excellent article she recently wrote about me headed "Miniature creations have artist thinking big."

I forwarded a copy to my parents who are now in Califronia, and they also were very happy with it.

Again, thank you so much for the attention you have given to my craftsmanship.

Fay Mernick
Toronto

World-National

Tensions increase over Syrian missile batteries

[Cont'd. from page 1]

Israeli flights. Israel demanded their removal, but Syria would not do so. For a while, there was a real danger that Israel and Syria would come to blows over the matter. Indeed, Menachem Begin, the then Prime Minister, revealed that an Israeli air strike against the Syrian missiles had been called off at the last minute due to inclement weather.

The crisis, in which U.S. diplomatic envoy Philip Habib played an intimate role, gradually dissipated, overtaken by a new round of hostilities between Israel and the PLO in southern Lebanon.

It was not until June of 1982, during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, that the first missile crisis was resolved to Israel's satisfaction. In the opening days of the Lebanese war, waves of Israeli jet fighters swept over the Bekaa Valley and destroyed all the Syrian batteries, shooting down more than 80 Syrian planes, or a quarter of Syria's air force, in the process.

Now, four years later, in the latest instalment of the missile crisis, Syria seems as determined as in 1981 not to give in to Israel.

Tishrin, the Syrian government daily, said in a truculent commentary that Syria would "not yield to the rules of American-Zionist blackmail, however heavy the pressure may be." Tishrin claimed that Syria "possesses the capability to repel all aggression and deal painful blows to the aggressors."

Al-Baath, organ of the ruling Syrian Baathist Party, charged Israel with "preparing for a new military adventure against Syria." The newspaper claimed that Syria "is not alone in the battle."

The reference may have been to the Soviet Union, which has a treaty of friendship and cooperation with Syria. The Soviets rebuilt the Syrian armed forces after the 1982 Lebanon war, supplying Syria with advanced aircraft, missiles and armored vehicles.

According to Israeli spokesmen, Syria is now stronger than ever, and is Israel's No. 1 enemy.

Syrian leaders have spoken of the need to achieve a "strategic balance" with Israel so that, if necessary, Syria can take on Israel without the assistance of other Arab countries or the Soviet Union.

Neither Israeli nor American analysts believe that Syria can match Israel's military might in the near future.

Nevertheless, Israel is concerned that the placement of Syrian SAM missiles so close to the Lebanese frontier can have a negative effect on Israel's military capability.

Zeev Schiff, the knowledgeable military writer for Haaretz, the Israeli daily, says Syria has created "a new situation" which can "lead to dangerous deterioration. This deterioration is likely to be expressed in local incidents and in the broader use of air forces and missile batteries."

The next few days or weeks may decide the issue.

Israel, U.S. differ on UNIFIL

By JOSEPH POLAKOFF

WASHINGTON — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's efforts to have the United States withdraw the 5,500 troops from the 9-nation UNIFIL force patroling southern Lebanon near Israel's border are being resisted by Washington.

Rabin has said that UN troops are no longer necessary because the security zone there "has proved itself" to be effective against Palestinian gunmen intent on entering Israel to commit terrorist acts or by establishing sites for firing rockets into Israel's northern settlements.

The zone is controlled by the South Lebanon Army, led by Christians allied with Israel. Some Israeli troops also are in the area cooperating with SLA. Virtually all of Israel's forces were withdrawn from Lebanon by last June. UN forces in the area have been frequently criticized by Israelis as being ineffective in preventing terrorist infiltration into Israel.

Responding to the Rabin view, the White House and the state department have declared the U.S. remains committed to the UN force in southern Lebanon, although Congress has mandated a reduction of $18 millions in the U.S. support for it.

Amplifying the White House statement of support for UNIFIL, the state department said the U.S. has "consistently supported" it since its establishment in 1978 "at our urging and over Soviet opposition." The department said, "We continue to view UNIFIL as a stabilizing element in South Lebanon" and that the force will continue in place under the current mandate which expires in April.

Troops in UNIFIL at present are from Norway, Sweden, Finland, France, Nepal, Fiji, Ghana and The Netherlands.

WJC and Poland hold negotiations

[Cont'd. from page 1]

East-West relations and the Middle East situation.

Following the meeting — in a ceremony carried by Polish television — Jaruzelski presented Bronfman with a 200-year-old Torah adorned with a silver crown along with a unique 3-foot high silver menorah. The WJC said that Bronfman will transfer these rare items of Judaica to an appropriate public exhibition setting.

The Jewish delegation began its visit to Warsaw with a wreath-laying ceremony at the monument at the site of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. Afterwards, at the Nozyk Synagogue, the sole Jewish house of worship in Warsaw to survive World War II, the delegation met with leaders and representatives of the 6,000-member Polish Jewish community.

Following a performance of the Yiddish play, *The Dybbuk*, the group attended the official ceremonies in which artists of the Warsaw Jewish Theater, under the directorship of Szymon Szurmiej, were awarded state medals on the occasion of the theatre's 35th anniversary.

The delegation concluded its visit with a wreath-laying ceremony at the site of Treblinka.

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Woodbine Centre, Rexdale

300 Steeles Ave. W., two blocks west of Yonge

Organizations and People

Adrienne Offman

Max Handelman

Offman, Handelman UJA chairmen for 1987

TORONTO —

Adrienne Offman and Max Handelman have been named joint chairmen for the 1987 United Jewish Appeal campaign. They will assume their duties on Jan. 1.

Selection of the chairmen was made by the UJA Past Chairman's Committee, chaired by Gerald Shear, comprising top leaders of past campaigns.

• Mrs. Offman is a longtime activist in Jewish communal affairs and a leading exponent of advancing the role of today's Jewish woman in these fields.

Within the UJA framework, she currently serves as joint chairman of the Project Renewal Committee and is a member of the Campaign Cabinet. Other key roles she has played in past campaigns include that of Women's Division chairman and chairman of Campaign Planning.

Offman is also a Toronto Jewish Congress vice-president and officer, and in November was appointed by the North American Council of Jewish Federations to serve as CJF Women's Division vice-chairman for the Canadian provinces.

• Max Handelman's is a 30-year association with UJA, during which he has served in an array of key leadership positions.

In 1985 he was named UJA's Man of the Year and most recently, during the 1986 UJA drive, he was campaign vice-chairman as well as chairman of the Campaign Cabinet.

A leading advocate of organizational planning, Handelman is acknowledged as having played a major role in structuring the UJA campaign mechanism as it is today.

Beyond his UJA involvement, he presently serves as a member of the Ontario and national boards of the Jewish National Fund and is a past vice-president of JNF.

Society head calls for prevention of crime

By
CAROLYN BLACKMAN

TORONTO —

The crime rate in Canada is significantly lower than most people think it is says the executive director of the John Howard Society of Metropolitan Toronto.

"Only 6% of crimes are violent, less murders are committed than people think and only 13% commit crimes after being released from prison," David Arbuckle said recently at a breakfast meeting of the Beth Sholom Brotherhood.

He said communities should take time to find out the true extent of crime before they "cry out for harsher punishment out of fear," adding that tougher measures "is merely putting a bandaid on a gaping wound."

He said communities should concentrate on the prevention of crime. "Many criminals have been abused by family or friends, half are unemployed and most lack any type of skills. These things can be corrected," Arbuckle said.

He noted that the John Howard Society, a national organization, is devoted to helping criminals adjust to society after being released from prison. "We are trying to break the cycle of recidivism by equipping these people with skills that can lead to proper law-abiding behavior," said Arbuckle.

He noted that the society operates six halfway houses in Toronto. "These houses help lower the crime rate because people have a place to go after prison where they can adjust to life on the outside," Arbuckle explained.

He added that the society recently opened a print shop in Toronto that provides recently released prisoners with both skill training and employment.

"We also offer parole counseling, job counseling, have a 24-hour hotline for people on parole and run support groups for families of prisoners to try and keep the families together," he said.

Arbuckle said that although punishment is a "necessary component of the social system, correction plays a more important role."

"These people are desperate for basic survival assistance. Without it they often have no where to turn except back to their old ways. He stressed that by correcting these old ways "we can reduce crime."

Arbuckle noted that volunteers play an important role in the John Howard Society. "They visit prisoners, assist them after release and lend an ear when someone wants to talk," he said.

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Heritage language program

More are taking Hebrew

By
MARK DODICK

TORONTO —

More students studied Hebrew in 1984-85 than any other language taught as part of the heritage language program administered by the Board of Education for the City Of York, statistics from the board show.

The Heritage Programs Annual Report 1984-85 shows that the number of students studying Hebrew for that school year was 600, followed by 504 studying Greek and 455 learning Italian.

Hebrew was one of 14 langauges including Cantonese, Malayalam, Punjabi, Spanish and Urdu taught as part of the program.

The statistics also show that from the 1983-84 school year to 1984-85, the number of Hebrew students increased from 201 to 600.

The reason cited by the report for that increase is the "return to board sponsorship of the Holy Blossom Temple's Hebrew heritage language classes with an enrolment of 392 students. . . ."

Of the 25 Hebrew classes taught in 1984-85, 14 were taught at the Holy Blossom Temple Religious School and 10 at Beth Tzedec Congregational School. The report does not state where the other class was taught.

John Tullo, supervisor of heritage program for the York Board of Education says the increase in the number of Hebrew students for that year can also be explained by a general increase in enrolment.

Tullo says the program, which began in 1977, "has to be viewed within the policy of multiculturalism . . . through the language, the culture is better transmitted.

"By recognizing cultural differences we ensure that the child has a greater sense of self-worth and people can recognize the worth of all cultures," Tullo says.

Heritage language instruction is free for all children from kindergarten to grade 8 who attend publicly funded schools. The program, financed through the ministry of education, provides 2½ hours of instruction per week.

Rabbi Steven Garten, director of education at the Holy Blossom Temple Religious School, says that when he came to the school in 1980 it was not participating in the program. He says he does not know when the temple first participated, but says it was on a "trial basis," and that at the time it was felt "that the benefits did not outweigh the restrictions."

Holy Blossom returned to the program in 1984-85, Garten says, because "we were better able to handle the administrative requirements.

"I was able to make the determination that the curriculum in our Hebrew school fits very well within guidelines established by the province and the City of York," Garten says.

The rabbi adds that "the amount of money available to the synagogue was so significant that it was impressive in a time of fiscal restraint to re-examine our participation."

The board funds all local programs that request funding even if there is an existing program, and religious institutions fall within the guidelines, Garten explains.

However, he emphasizes that the program funds only language and heritage (i.e. history, culture) instruction, not religious education.

To receive funding the school must comply with board guidelines regarding teacher qualifications, curriculum, textbooks (for which funding is received), and maximum hours of instruction.

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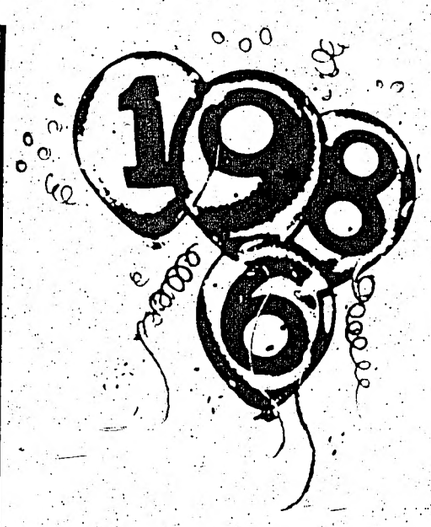

Organizations and People

What's New

By MIRIAM CHINSKY

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Saturday, Dec. 28

KING DAVID CONGREGATION

King David Congregation is holding a Shabbat morning service on Saturday, Dec. 28 at 9.30. The re-confirmation of **Joshua Bien** will be celebrated on this date.

The service will be conducted by **Rabbi Meir Gottesman.** Children are welcome.

The congregation meets at Forest Hill Collegiate Institute auditorium, 730 Eglinton Ave. W.

Sunday, Dec. 29

BETH SHOLOM BROTHERHOOD

Beth Sholom Brotherhood Tallis and Tefillin Breakfast Club, 1445 Eglinton Ave. W., meets next on Sunday, Dec. 29, when communal activist **Stanley Gordon,** speaks on The Revolution of Rising Apathy.

Services are at 9.30 a.m., breakfast in the Gerald Schwartz auditorium follows, and the speaker begins at 10.30.

Chairman is **Ben Nobleman,** co-chairman, **Harry Goldstein.**

Tuesday, Dec. 31

ADATH ISRAEL NEW YEAR DANCE

It's not too late to reserve for Adath Israel Brotherhood's annual New Year's Eve Dinner and Dance, Tuesday, Dec. 31, from 8.30 p.m. to the wee hours. But, don't delay!

Enjoy a wonderful dinner, dancing to the **Rick Levine Orchestra,** and free bar. Admission is $75 per person.

Wednesday, Jan. 1

NEW YEAR LEVEE

Celebrate the New Year at the annual Mayor's New Year Levee on Wednesday, Jan. 1, from 2 to 4 p.m. in North York City Hall, 5100 Yonge St.

Light refreshments will be available, plus lively entertainment by the Royal Canadian Legion Band.

For more details on this and other City of North York events, call the public information office at 224-6086.

McDOUGALL GUEST

Dr. Elaine Todres, UJA Business & Professional Women's Network chairman, is shown with Barbara McDougall, minister of state for finance, and Bruria Lindenberg, at B & P program which featured McDougall as guest speaker at Beth Tzedec Synagogue.

BAR-ILAN RECEPTION

At a reception in aid of cancer research at Bar-Ilan University, are (left to right) Allan Silber, Dina Berniker, administrative deputy to the rector of the university, Hinda Silber and Gerald Yaffe, co-chairman of the event. The Silbers, who received a plaque for their efforts on behalf of the cancer research department, hosted the gathering which was attended by close to 100 persons. Prof. Benjamin Sredni of Bar-Ilan outlined some of the dramatic research being done in the field of cancer research.

And What Else Is New . . .

COMMUNAL SERVICE MEETING

Jonathan Woocher, professor of Jewish Communal Service, Brandeis University, will examine Current Trends in the North American Jewish Community, when he addresses a meeting of the Toronto Association for Professionals in Jewish Communal Service, Tuesday, Jan. 14, at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. Lunch is at noon, program at 12.30 p.m.

To reserve, call **Bernie Shoub,** 633-7770. This is free to association members. Cost is $3 for non-members.

ALTERNATIVE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Subway Academy One is an alternative secondary school of the Toronto Board of Education, located in Toronto's east end in the Danforth and Donlands area.

Subway Academy One uses independent studies to give students the opportunity to progress at their own pace toward the completion of an Ontario secondary school graduation diploma. The school offers a wide range of academic subjects in an informal, supportive environment.

It also offers extended hours to 7 p.m. one night a week, to permit those who have daytime commitments to continue their education, and it operates during July. The program is open to anyone 16 years and up, and is ideal for adults.

To inquire further call 466-2153.

SCHOOL NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Joyce Elementary School, a multicultural, special needs school near Lawrence Ave. W. and Caledonia Rd., is in need of volunteers. The school has a high proportion of children new to Canada from Asia and Guyana. The school requires energetic and enthusiastic adults who enjoy children, to provide excellent English language role models as classroom assistants in the primary grades (junior kindergarten to grade 3).

If you are interested in volunteering in this special school, please call the Volunteer Centre at 481-6194.

LIBRARY ART EXHIBITIONS

A varied art selection is on view at North York Libraries through the month of January.

Fred Donor's love of nature and interest in wildlife preservation are expressed through photography, at Fairview Library, 35 Fairview, just east of Don Mills Rd.

English-born **Mike Hollison** tries to capture the mood and drama of Canadian and English landscapes in his realistic acrylic paintings which can be seen at Yorkdale Library, in Yorkdale Mall.

Henry Tenser, a wartime firefighter during the Battle of Britain, is a self-taught painter whose fondness for old English country villages and picturesque fishing communities is reflected in his work. His exhibition is at Hillcrest Library, 5801 Leslie St., just north of Finch Ave.

Prismacolor is the preferred medium of **Jeannette Hay,** who has had training in oil and watercolors as well as graphic design. The public is invited to view her work at Pleasant View Library, 575 Van Horne Ave., just west of Victoria Park.

Tafazzul Hussain, who studied Fine Arts in his native Pakistan, Canada and the United States, has sketched numerous portraits at Canada's Wonderland. His sketches and portraits are exhibited at Don Mills Library, 888 Lawrence Ave. E., just west of Don Mills Rd.

Taisia Paczkowski masters watercolors in her delicate, sensitive interpretations of a simple weed, a joyfully blooming flower, even a lifeless tree against a sombre sky. Her paintings are shown at Brookbanks Library, 210 Brookbanks Dr. just south of York Mills Rd.

For more information and to check hours, telephone 495-3438.

INTENSIVE STUDY RETREAT

Lubavitch encourages men and women to participate in an Intensive Study Retreat Wednesday, Dec. 25 through Sunday, Dec. 29.

This is an open invitation to utilize the vacation break to study Torah. Experience a comprehensive yeshivah learning program through classes, lectures and discussion.

The theme is Tzedakah (Charity): Philosophical Background, Theoretical Issues and Practical Applications.

Questions to be explored include: "Are income tax payments deductible from my charity obligations? Must I trust the stranger who knocks at my door for a donation? Are donations to non-Jewish charities acceptable as charity by Jewish law? Is there a scale of priorities in giving charity? I can't afford to give charity — Am I exempt from the mitzvah of tzedakah?

Classes and lectures will be given by local rabbis and guest scholar **Rabbi David Vichnin,** Rosh Yeshiva Tifereth Bachurim, Morristown, NJ.

Programs are 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Dec. 25, 26 and 27, and Sunday, Dec. 29, as well as 7 to 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 25 and 26, and Sunday, Dec. 29. A Melaveh Malke will be held at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

The Retreat takes place at the Lubavitch Community Centre, 770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill. For registration and information, call 731-7000.

TALENT NIGHT

The Entertainment and Cultural Connection of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue is planning another talent night. If you would like to take part, please write to **Jerry Genesove,** 625 Roselawn Ave., Apt. 304, Toronto, M5N 1K7.

JSF BOWLING

Jewish Student Federation Bowling is on Sunday evenings, 8 p.m. at Power Lanes, in Finchurst Plaza at the southeast corner of Bathurst and Finch. For more information call the JSF at 667-3647.

SHALOM VILLAGE EVENTS

Here is a list of events at Shalom Village, 70 Macklin St. N. in Hamilton, for the month of January.

On Thursday, Jan. 9 at 2.30 p.m., **Dr. Dolovich** will speak on New Allergies Caused by Today's Lifestyles and New Methods of Treatment for Allergies.

Pharmacist **Hilton Silberg, will discuss drugs at 2.30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 16.**

Shalom Village 4th anniversary party is scheduled for Simcha Sunday, Jan. 19. A band will provide music for a special tea dance.

An evening of toe tapping and swinging your partner with the square dance group, Bows and Blossoms, is set for Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 23, at 2.30 p.m. the beautiful art of flower arranging will be demonstrated by Sumi Nogami.

An interesting book review and reading from The Rothchilds, by Zelma Leaf, takes place on Friday, Jan. 24.

The Men's Breakfast is scheduled for 9.30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 26, and in the afternoon, Syd Levy will entertain on the piano.

How to Cope With Cancer, is the topic for a meeting at 7.30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 28, under the auspices of the Canadian Cancer Society.

On Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 7.30 p.m., students from McMaster's music department, a pianist and vocalist, will perform.

The film series, Famous People, continues every Wednesday afternoon at 2.30.

Each Saturday at 3 p.m. **Rena Freedman** offers Yiddish readings.

Regular programs, mosaic tile, exercise, crafts, bowling, ceramics and discussion groups with **Mark Nagler** and **Karen Beer,** will be held as usual.

All programs are open to seniors in the community. If you are interested, call 528-5377.

at the jcc

Bring in the New Year with a bang! The JCC N/E Valley branch is having a Midnight Munch New Year's Eve party. Festivities begin at 9 p.m. with a live band playing all night long. A full dessert buffet will be served from 9 until midnight and a cash bar will be available all evening. At midnight, breakfast and champagne will be served. The cost is $30 per person. Tickets are available at the N/E Valley office. This promises to be an unforgettable evening. For information call **Michael, Jodi** or **Rose** at 889-0813.

The Valley North Tennis Club is holding its Spring Opening Tennis Tournament on the Algarve in sunny Portugal March 23 to April 7. Space is limited. For additional information and registration, call **Arlene Fishman,** 889-5575, **Richard Kauffman, 636-2314, or Shari,** at Corson Travel, 482-2440.

[Cont'd. on page 15]

Organizations and People

What's New

[Cont'd. from page 14]

Jack Bush on Paper, Works from 1949-1975, continues at the Koffler Gallery, 4588 Bathurst St. until Jan. 30. This is a comprehensive overview of work in watercolor and gouache from collections in Canada and the United States.

A modest selection borrowed from the **Bush** estate will be shown for the first time. The exhibition will travel to three other sites in Ontario and the United States. Works on paper are fragile and do not travel often. This is a rare treat and should not be missed!

And, the next screening in the Brown Bag Lunch film series, Emily Carr, Little Old Lady on the Edge of Nowhere, is at the Koffler Gallery, Thursday, Jan. 2 at 12.30 p.m.

for seniors

Please note: When you send or bring in photos, include your name and address plus $1 to cover mailing costs, otherwise we cannot promise to return them.

Earl Bales Seniors Club is opening up the community centre in the park at Sheppard and Bathurst for a New Year's Eve Party on Tuesday, Dec. 31 from 7 - 11.30 p.m. Enjoy a chicken dinner and dancing for $10 per person, members; $12, non-members. For more details call **Pearl,** at 636-7856, Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Here's a reminder - Earl Bales Seniors Place will be closed from Jan. 1 to March 17.

The Jewish Community Centre **Seniors Western Swing** tour to Expo 86 departing on Monday, May 26, returning on Sunday, June 8, with stops in Calgary, Banff, Jasper, Kamloops, the Okanagan Valley, Hell's Gate, Victoria and Vancouver, is accepting registration. There are only a few spaces left. To register, call **Teme Kernerman** at the JCC, 636-1880, or **Shari** at Corson Travel, 482-2440, for more information.

Jewish Ethics and Philosophy is an ongoing rabbis' lecture series on Wednesday afternoons from 3 to 4 in the Waltman Fireside Lounge of the **Wagman Centre,** 55 Ameer Ave. On Jan. 1, **Rabbi Yitzchok Kerzner,** of Clanton Park Synagogue, will explore Prospects for Peace in the Middle East.

Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club reminds you of continuing programs that can make your life productive and enjoyable: Mondays, from 11 a.m. to noon, folkdancing, 1 to 3 p.m., a drama series with **Nat Garnick;** Wednesdays, 1 to 3 p.m., oil painting; Thursdays, 10.30 to 11.30 a.m., dancercize with music.

There are still a few reservations for early January available at the new Sassoon Hotel in Miami Beach.

The trip to Western Canada has been finalized. This beautiful and exciting 2-week tour starts May 13 and includes all quality hotels, and three days at Expo 86. For further information call **Lena Sugar,** 782-2262. Make your reservations early.

And, Shaarei Shomayim Friendship Club looks forward to Monday, Dec. 30 at 1 p.m., when a current film will be shown. Refreshments follow.

Workmen's Circle Social Club, 471 Lawrence Ave. W., gathers next for lunch, a meeting and entertainment, at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 31. Tickets will be available at this meeting for the Miami trip, and everyone who signed up must be present. For more information call **Shirley Grotell,** 222-7727.

CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living is located at 1003 Steeles Ave. W. The phone number is 225-2112.

The Centre for Creative Living Lifelong Learning Institute offers three new Humber College courses, commencing in January. There are two Creative Writing courses, one, with **Barbara Turner,** starting Thursday, Jan. 9, 3 to 5 p.m., and another, with **Marie Gould,** beginning Friday, Jan. 10, 10 a.m. to noon. Each is for 10 weeks and the cost is $10 per course. An additional course, Conflict in the Middle East, with **David Berlin,** starts Tuesday, Jan. 14 , 10 a.m. to noon, continues for 10 weeks and also costs $10.

All of these courses will be given at the Centre, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. Pre-registration is recommended. The $10 fee is for seniors. Non-seniors may participate, but the cost is $15 per course.

Join your friends at the Centre every Sunday from 11 a.m. on. You are welcome to drop in for coffee, a light snack, and to meet others. At 12.30 there is a bingo game, and at 2 p.m., there is a special program. On Sunday, Dec. 29, at 2, **Nancy Anderson** will entertain on piano and guitar. Come and sing along with Nancy.

Improved treatments cited

Cure rate for cancer on increase

TORONTO —

The cure rate of many types of cancers, most especially those in children, has increased markedly in the past 20 years according to Dr. Derek Jenkin, director of the Toronto-Bayview Regional Cancer Centre at Sunnybrook Hospital.

Speaking at a recent public forum on Progress in Cancer Care sponsored by the Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, Jenkin explained that improved combinations of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy are the cause for the change.

"The rate of success might have been higher earlier," he said, "if not for the avoidance of trying new methods."

Drs. Neill Iscoe and Robert Buckman, medical oncologists at the centre also participated. Iscoe traced the system of developing and testing a new drug to be used in cancer treatment. Using testicular cancer and CIC Platinum as the models, he showed how a chance "find" of the effectiveness of the metal in killing certain cancer cells then had to go through an exhaustive process of testing in the laboratory, then on human tumors implanted in animals and finally on human beings.

When asked afterwards about the efficacy of using chemotherapy on patients when the cure can be as painful and debilitating as the disease, Iscoe responded that "for those patients who have a curable disease, I make them walk through fire and water if necessary to achieve the cure." For those whose cancer is incurable, he leaves the decision about treatment up to the patient.

Dr. Buckman assured the audience that he would definitely not be announcing any breakthroughs that evening.

"Cancer research is progressing steadily," he said. "Major breakthroughs are very rare and I deem it irresponsible that a so-called cure for AIDS was announced in France after only four days of use."

He explained that at least 99.9% of the cells in cancers will die of their own accord. The problem faced by the doctors is in killing the remaining cells before they multiply and without killing healthy cells. To further illustrate the problem, he showed that often when breast cancer is removed, the bone marrow may have some cancer cells which could then develop elsewhere in the body.

A researcher in Africa paved the way for removing the bone marrow and refrigerating it while treating the breast cancer and then replacing it in the body when the chemotherapy has made its way through the system, thus avoiding any harm coming to healthy bone marrow. This was perfected in the U.S. Buckman, working in England, later helped develop a system of determining whether cancer cells were located in the marrow which then could be isolated and treated.

The doctors stated that while stress and lifestyle are not known to have any connection with the development of cancer, environment does. Fifty percent of cancers occur in people over 65 years of age, they added, and also explained that cancers do not form overnight.

"Most cancers take years to develop," Buckman said.

The doctors advised the audience that 50% of all cancers would be abolished if people ate a high fibre, low fat diet and stopped smoking.

"You can continue making the government rich," Buckman quipped, "by smoking two packs of cigarettes a day so it can get the taxes and then die before you're 65 so you can't collect old age security."

Sam H. Blank, national president of The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation, explained that the foundation sponsors medical seminars annually on topics of general interest as a public service. He particularly welcomed to the meeting Margery and Frank Goldhar, co-chairmen, and Pearl Greenbaum, director, of the Israel Cancer Research Fund, which has provided research fellowships to several researchers at the Shaare Zedek Medical Center in Jerusalem.

WITH GRATITUDE

Carol Baratz, representing The Association for Welfare of Soldiers in Israel, presents a plaque of gratitude to the students of United Synagogue Day Schools Beth Tikvah Branch, represented by (from left): Jeffrey Larry, David Tepper, Sari Kline and Leslie Aberman. The entire school participated in a fund raising drive which completed at Chanukah with $456.66 collected for the association. Organized by teacher Barbara Tweyman, the campaign is part of a series that in previous years has sent contributions to Syrian Jews and Magen David Adom. [Graphic Artists photo]

MEZUZAH AFFIXED

A project on mezuzot at Leo Baeck Day School begun on the first day of classes was completed recently with a ceremony affixing a mezuzah to the front entrance of the school. Watching Rabbi Danny Gottlieb of Temple Har Zion at work are students (from left) Jodi Wolfe, Ariela Guttman and Ezra Title. Dr. David Cohen, director of Leo Baeck (left) and Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld of Temple Emanu-El also make sure the job is done right. Brought from Israel by a board member the mezuzah is made of Jerusalem stone and the parchment comes from Meah She'arim. [Graphic Artists photo]

Shapiro report hearings set

TORONTO —

The Ontario government will be holding two public meetings in Toronto early in January on the Shapiro Commission report on private school financing.

The meetings, on Jan. 6 and 9, are part of a province-wide series to give the public a chance to discuss the recommendations of the report.

Both meetings will take place in the Ontario Room, Macdonald Block, 900 Bay St.

Dr. Bernard Shapiro, author of the government-commissioned report, will answer questions and outline the contents of the 276-page document, which recommended public funding of private schools under certain conditions.

According to a ministry spokesman, the meetings are information-sharing sessions.

Education Minister Sean Conway, who announced the meetings when he tabled the report in the Ontario legislature Nov. 2, will not attend.

Conway asked interested parties to submit responses to the government on the report's recommendations by April 30.

Included in the series of meetings, which began in Barrie earlier this month, are hearings in London on Jan. 14, at Althouse College Auditorium, University of Western Ontario, 1137 Western Rd. at 7.30 p.m.

In Ottawa on Jan. 23, in the main auditorium of Algonquin College, Rideau Campus, 200 Lees Ave, also at 7.30 p.m.

A HIT WITH YOUR GUESTS

Planning a party? Try this recipe from Empire Kosher Foods as a sure way of making a hit with your guests.

MARINATED ITALIAN GOURMETTES

1 box (about 2¼ pounds) Empire Kosher Fryer Wing Gourmettes
1 bottle prepared Italian salad dressing
1 tsp. Morton's Nature Seasoning

Marinate chicken in salad dressing overnight in refrigerator. When ready to cook, remove gourmettes and place in shallow baking dish. Sprinkle with seasoning. Bake at 350F for about 1 hour or until tender, turning and basting with marinade several times during baking.

Transfer gourmettes to platter. Makes about 22 gourmettes.

Organizations and People

Israel's first intentionally integrated community

Neve Shalom promotes Arab-Jewish dialogue

By
RON CSILLAG

TORONTO —

The settlement of Neve Shalom in Israel is described this way: It is the only place in the whole country where Jews and Arabs choose to live together.

Sitting atop a rocky, once barren hill midway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Neve Shalom (Hebrew for Oasis of Peace) is said to be Israel's only settlement where Arabs and Jews voluntarily live, eat, study and work together.

It also boasts the School for Peace, unique for its 3-day workshops on peaceful Arab-Jewish coexistence that attract teenagers from around the world.

But Neve Shalom is more than just a bold new experiment in Arab-Jewish harmony. Since 1972, it has worked in promoting a dialogue that in Israel, is rare at the best of times.

Last week at Holy Blossom Temple, two veteran occupants of Neve Shalom held their own day-long workshop on Arab-Jewish dialogue.

Iyas Shbata, a Palestinian Moslem and Ariela Bairey, an Israeli Jew, are two counselors at Neve Shalom. Together, they met with over 30 people of all ages to discuss the kind of work they do.

Neve Shalom today consists of 13 families and 20 single people on roughly 100 acres of land— about 60 Arabs and Jews in all. Life for them isn't easy.

"There are no paved roads, no mail— no infrastructure," Bairey, 27, told the concluding evening session. "We have no official support from the government."

The settlement is caught in a catch-22 predicament, she explained. Neve Shalom isn't recognized by either the kibbutz or the moshav movements because it does not meet the minimum population requirement. But it can't increase its population because it has no funds to build new homes. Unlike West Bank settlements, Neve Shalom gets no money from the government. Outside donations and grants from private foundations are what keeps it going.

Since the settlement was founded 13 years ago by an Egyptian-born monk, Father Bruno Hussar on land leased from a Trappist monastery, occupants have raised sheep and bees, grown olives and almonds and have built homes. It has always been run by a democratically chosen committee comprised of equal numbers of Arabs and Jews.

And as Israel's first intentionally integrated community for Jews and Arabs, Neve Shalom's proudest achievement has been the School for Peace, which has trained some 7,000 teenagers and 1,000 adults since 1980 in intensive, live-in workshops over three days, using a variety of techniques to build trust between the two groups, Bairey explained. The school works in conjunction with 112 other Israeli schools in planning workshops.

The community's regular school is a fully bilingual, bicultural elementary facility with 29 students.

Here, Arab culture is taught alongside Jewish culture and Arabic taught with Hebrew. But not taught are politics and religion. The settlement is completely secular and apolitical.

Neve Shalom is dedicated to the idea that Arabs and Jews in Israel can live side by side without having to sacrifice their identities or dignity, pointed out Shbata.

A 29-year-old who studied Hebrew and philosophy at Ramat Aviv University, Shbata, whose ancestral village was appropriated by Israel in 1948, has been living at Neve Shalom for six years, after having taught in an Arab school. His new friendship with Jews, he conceded, was forged in a fire of fear and suspicion.

> **"There's a lot of anger"**

"For many years, I had a lot of anger toward Jews," he said. "This is an example for those who said it wasn't possible."

"There's a lot of anger on both sides," added Bairey, a Mexican-born Jew who immigrated to Israel in 1975. "I had my angers too."

Both Shbata and Bairey admit they learned how difficult it was to overcome mutual prejudices, but they succeeded and so have others. They have steered clear of internecine bickering, they say, and have concentrated instead on empowering Jews and Arabs to understand each other on a personal level and overcoming generations of hatred.

"We don't believe the West Bank is part of Israel," Bairey stated, however. "Neither does international law." The community, she explains, works only with those Arabs inside pre-1967 borders.

Their only other political statement is about Rabbi Meir Kahane, whom the community vehemently opposes. "Kahane not only threatens Arabs, but also me, as a non-religious Jew," Bairey noted.

Neve Shalom's work has been so successful that Catholic and Protestant groups in Northern Ireland have expressed interest in setting up a similar community in their land.

All Israel can learn from their example, they say. It's matter of starting small and going from there.

But the settlement has no plans on exporting its philosophy to neighboring Arab states, to help bridge the chasms between Arab majorities and Jewish minorities.

"We believe in peace at home," said Bairey. "If you love Israel, you must support dialogue."

For more information, call the Canadian Friends of Neve Shalom at 1-416-688-3537.

Sheila Hecker turns to toast the success of Aish HaTorah with her husband Harvey. The Heckers were honored at a recent reception dedicating the Aish HaTorah library in their name. [Graphic Artists photo]

Aish HaTorah fete honors Harvey and Sheila Hecker

Library at the institute dedicated in their honor

By
MARK DODICK

TORONTO —

The renovation of a former billiards hall into a place for perpetuating Jewish renewal was symbolically completed recently with the dedication of the Aish HaTorah library in honor of Harvey and Sheila Hecker.

In a presentation that surprised and moved both the honorees, the executive director of Canadian Friends of Aish HaTorah, Boruch Rabinowitz, removed a Chanukah banner from above a row of bookshelves to reveal the dedication plaque.

More than 70 well-wishers attending the cocktail reception at Aish HaTorah's quarters at 296A Wilson Ave., applauded Harvey and Sheila.

The distinction bestowed upon the Heckers recognizes the contribution they have made to the organization, following a trip to Jerusalem in February 1983 to visit their son studying at the Aish HaTorah Yeshiva.

Returning to Toronto, they became active in organizing the Toronto branch. Aish HaTorah board of governors member, Phil Schwartz, persuaded Harvey to serve as president, a position he still holds. Sheila also sits on the board, and both study regularly with the Aish HaTorah faculty.

Tying his remarks to Chanukah, the education director of Aish HaTorah, Sholom Schwartz, said the Maccabees "were willing to die for the ideals of Judaism, and we are willing to live for them."

He praised the Heckers for looking after the day-to-day details necessary to maintain the organization, which seeks to foster those ideals.

Mitchell Shore, Canadian director of Network, the North American Jewish students organization and an Aish HaTorah student, described the organization as "an unusual institution, a school, a home, a family, and a way of living.

"I didn't know anything about my Jewish roots," Shore said. But he began to learn and continues to learn. "I extend my gratitude to Harvey and Sheila and all Aish HaTorah supporters," Shore continued.

What you see in Harvey and Sheila is a passionate commitment to the survival of the Jewish people . . . it transcends the mundane," said Phil Schwartz.

Rising to express his appreciation, Harvey Hecker said: "This sends shivers up and down my spine. To be identified with these books and with learning is a great honor.

"I have seen Aish HaTorah grow from a dark basement facility to a bright and airy facility capable of assisting double the number of students.

"I want our young people to make intelligent choices and in order to make those choices, they have to go back to bedrock. I'm in the education business and we're going to reach as many people as we can."

Sheila Hecker said "our enthusiasm has just grown as we have seen what has happened here." The value of the organization, she said, is that it makes the students proud of their identity and heritage.

Harvey Hecker is a Fellow of the Chartered Accountants Association (FCA), a provincial award presented only every three years.

In 1956 he became a partner of the firm that evolved into Laventhol & Horwath, an accounting and management company. In 1973 he became managing partner and chairman of Laventhol & Horwath Canada. He later became vice-president of Horwath & Horwath International and is on the governing council representing Canada.

Sheila Hecker graduated from the University of Toronto in 1955 with a BA in psychology, and from the Ontario College of Education in 1956. She taught for three years at D. B. Wood Public School before leaving for the birth of her first child.

The Heckers married in 1957 and have three children: Joel, 26, a student at Yeshiva University; Gordon, 24, a student at the University of Chicago; and Karen, 20, a student at York University.

For more information about Aish HaTorah, phone 636-7530.

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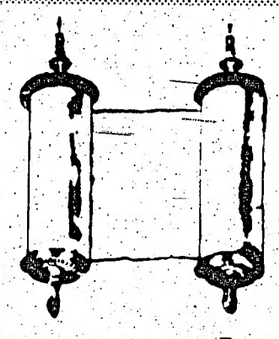
Organizations and People



sparks from the torah

By
RABBI MEIR URI GOTTESMAN

Parshat Vayechee

When will the Messiah come? Soon . . . any day now. Are we ready?

Father Jacob gathered his children to his bedside to give them a final blessing. . . .

"Beekaysh Yaakov l'galot et ha'keitz. . . . Father Jacob wanted to reveal the end, when the Final Redemption will come. . . ." What happened? "Nistam meemenu. . . ." It was hidden from him!

Is it fair? The most sensitive and critical moment in history, when the whole future will be revealed — and Jacob was suddenly blinded and hushed?

But Jacob beheld the vast expanse of Jewish history to come: the Egyptian bondage; the Philistine subjugation; the Assyrian assault; the Babylonian bondage; the Persian Haman; the Greek Antiochus; the Roman massacres; the Crusade atrocities; the Russian pogroms; the unspeakable Nazi crimes; the terrorist Arab nations; the Zundels and Keegstras. . . .

All this he saw, and fell into deep depression. And when a Jew is sad and depressed, the Holy Shechinah (Divine Indwelling) departs, the inspiration disappears. . . .

How could he predict the Final Redemption out of despair?

* * *

And yet — we wait and hope. The Messiah? Maybe yet today.

The brilliant Malbim wrote a commentary on Daniel, in which he attempted to predict the exact date when the Messiah would come. Other rabbis rushed him angry letters — didn't the Talmud say that those who try to predict when the Messiah will come should be strongly condemned!

The Malbim answered with a parable:

A businessman was traveling with his son on a long trip by wagon to visit the fair in Leipzig. The trip took weeks, town to town, inn to inn. Soon after he set out, the son asked: "Father, when will we reach Leipzig!"

The father glared at the son: "Don't ask me stupid questions!"

After many weeks, the father finally asked the coachman: "Uncle, how much longer to Leipzig!"

The son tugged his father's sleeve. "Father, why is it that when I asked how far to Leipzig, you grew angry. But then you yourself asked also?"

Answered the father: "There's a big difference. When you asked it was still miles and miles to go, a long journey. It was childish to ask — when does it end.

"But we have traveled a long distance. I know that Leipzig must be not far off. That's why it was wise to ask — when does the trip end. . . ."

So also, explained the Malbim, when the rabbis were impatient with those who asked for the end, because they knew the end was far, far away. But we are holding soon at the end of the long journey — so we seek the final time. (Fun Unzer Alten Oitzer)

But why wait for the Mashiach — we can act as though he were here already! The Mashiach is here when we stop thinking of ourselves as Orthodox, Conservative or Reform — but just Jews;

When we build smaller houses and share our wealth with the poor of Israel and the world;

When we abandon hate from our hearts;

When Shabbes shines;

When we remove sadness and worry from our hearts, walk with faith, and run after mitzvahs.

Let there be light — Shabbat Shalom.

Office manager highly praised

TJC-UJA's Joyce Peery to retire

By
BOB GOTTLIEB

TORONTO —

After 26 years of service, Joyce Peery — whose serene smile and unflappable demeanor belie the image of the universally harassed, dour office manager — will retire on Dec. 31 from her position as office manager of Toronto Jewish Congress-United Jewish Appeal.

Joyce Peery

Mrs. Peery's tenure with the city's central Jewish communal organization extends back to 1959, when she immigrated to Toronto from her native South Africa.

Employed first as a secretary, Peery rose to the position of office manager in 1970. She's spent the intervening years walking that fine line of accommodation between labor and management, ministering to their diverse needs with grace and aplomb — and, when it was called for, the wisdom of Solomon.

Steven Ain, executive director of Toronto Jewish Congress, says of Peery: "She is the epitome of devotion to duty. More — she looked upon everyone here as family. The feeling is mutual, and we'll truly miss her."

Irwin H. Gold, Ain's predecessor and now executive consultant to the Bequest and Endowment Fund of Toronto Jewish Congress, was equally warm in his praise. Joyce Peery, he said, was ever-present and ever-ready when needed, and in her quiet way was a constant advocate for the clerical staff she supervised.

"We realize Joyce's full worth," said Gold. "She will be missed."

Joyce Peery will be succeeded as office manager at Toronto Jewish Congress by Shirley Kruger, formerly of the TJC accounting office.

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Vancouver Jews to hear associate of Wallenberg

VANCOUVER —

The Vancouver Jewish community will pay homage to Raoul Wallenberg next month when Per Anger — the former Swedish ambassador who aided Wallenberg in Budapest — visits the West coast city.

As the former Swedish ambassador to Hungary during World War II, Anger worked side by side with Wallenberg, exposing himself to the same dangers while encountering SS and Arrow Cross officials.

The Canadian government recently passed a resolution declaring Wallenberg an honorary citizen of Canada.

Anger will give a major address to the general public on Jan. 25 at Beth Israel Synagogue, 4350 Oak St., at 8 p.m., sponsored by the Vancouver Holocaust Centre and Museum.

The following day, Jan. 26, he will participate in a dedication ceremony in honor of Wallenberg at the site of the waterfall in the Quarry Garden of Queen Elizabeth Park at 2 p.m. sponsored by the Second Generation Group of Holocaust Survivors.

Anger's visit to Vancouver is being made possible through the combined efforts and cosponsorship of Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region, Second Generation Group of Vancouver, Canadian Zionist Federation, Pacific Region, Young Leadership Group, B'nai B'rith Maccabee Lodge, Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, Hadassah-WIZO Council of Vancouver, the Swedish consulate, Beth Israel Synagogue and the Vancouver Swedish community.

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WWII ace Cohen dies

TORONTO —

Albert (Al) Cohen, known as a tireless worker for a host of Jewish causes in Toronto, died here recently after a lengthy bout with cancer. He was 69.

Cohen was a World War II flying ace who flew some 30 missions over Germany, Italy and France for the Royal Canadian Air Force as a bombardier and navigator.

After the war, Cohen became involved in a variety of Jewish organizations, which he pursued until his death.

He was past president of the Council of Jewish Brotherhoods and a life member of the Men's Service Group of Baycrest Hospital.

He was also active in the United Jewish Appeal, the Canadian Jewish Congress, Bialik Hebrew Day School, the Labor Zionist group, Farband and Histadrut, the Israeli trade union.

According to Rabbi Moshe Stern of the Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue, Cohen was known as "Mr. Shaarei Tefillah."

"If the shul needed something, he got it. If you needed something, you called Al Cohen," Stern told The CJN.

Stern said Cohen supervised all the details after the Apter Congregation merged with the Shaarei Tefillah.

"He was a very simple man— a hard, devoted community worker," Stern said of Cohen, who was manager of a wholesale cheese business.

Cohen served as the unofficial executive director of the shul's office, often helping to set up tables for weddings or bar mitzvahs and staying late to help clean up.

The funeral was held at Shaarei Tefillah.

Cohen is survived by his wife, Shirley, a daughter, Denise and a son-in-law, Sheldon Popliger.

The day after the wedding they'll still be talking about the perfect pasta.

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Organizations and People

Wide range of views expressed

Private school funding gets airing at CJC meet

By
PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO —
Colorful and often emotional debate marked a recent joint meeting of Toronto Jewish Congress and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region at which a consensus emerged that the Jewish community should support government aid to private schools.

"It's time for us to get our share of the pie," said Dr. Joseph Berger, a member of the CJC Ontario Regional executive, at the 2-hour public meeting at the Lipa Green Building.

His comments echoed the opinions of the majority of about a dozen speakers from the audience who followed with brief comments the more lengthy arguments presented by four scheduled speakers.

Without access to public funds, the right to private school education will become a "meaningless right," said Murray Segal, chairman of the Ontario Jewish Association for Equity in Education, a body created by Congress.

But Alan Borovoy and Prof. Fred Zemans, two of the four scheduled speakers, disagreed. Borovoy argued that the Jewish community's "wider interests" were in publicly supporting a "strong, viable public school institution."

Borovoy, national director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, argued that public schools create the opportunity to remove ethnic barriers and promote inter-group respect. He argued that government funding to private schools could spell the end of the public school system.

If Protestant groups seek government money for their own schools, "what kind of public school system will we have left?" he asked.

Borovoy said it was "improper" for the Jewish community to support Bill 30's plans to extend funding to Roman Catholic schools, since Jewish children (among others) in small communities which can't support two schools could find themselves having to enroll in a Roman Catholic school, with its pervasive religious environment.

Zemans, a law professor, agreed with Borovoy that public schools are the pillars of Canadian democracy. People from different cultures can study together and learn from each other in public schools, he said.

He called on the Jewish community to look within itself for more funds for private schools.

Les Scheininger and David Satok, the other two scheduled speakers, disagreed with Zemans and Borovoy, arguing that in multicultural Canadian society, Jews should have the same right to public money as other cultural groups.

Scheininger, chairman of CJC Ontario Region, briefly traced the history of Canadian society, noting its support for the integrity of cultural groups, adding the issue is one of equality among groups in Ontario.

He said the extension of funding to Roman Catholic schools, a key point of contention in legal arguments centring on Bill 30, has not been shown to compel non-Catholic children into a Catholic school.

He noted that 66 countries provide, to some extent, public aid to private schools, and there is no evidence of collapse of the public school system in any of them.

Satok, national chairman of community relations of CJC, told the meeting "we are on a collision course when it comes to funding Jewish schools."

The present system of financing favors the rich, who can afford it, and the poor, who are being subsidized. The middle class is being squeezed by high tuition costs, he said.

In future years, with projected higher costs, "tensions" could arise as to how to spend communal money — whether on social projects, education or for Israel.

The "bottom line," he said, was that the Jewish community must pursue public money to keep Jewish education at a high level.

Following presentations by the four scheduled speakers, plus an overview of the existing CJC position by Segal, the evening's moderator, TJC President Ron Appleby, opened the meeting to comments from some of the 120 people present.

Former MPP David Rotenberg blasted Borovoy, saying he was trying to set the Jewish community back 20 years. He said Jews should worry first about their own interests and survival, and that the first mitzvah is to teach your children to be Jews.

Prof. Arthur Kruger argued there is no proof that public schools promote harmony or that parochial school students suffer from more prejudiced attitudes to other groups than do public school students.

Rabbi Jordan Pearlson struck the theme that "Congress must act like Congress" and represent the interests of Jews outside the major Ontario centres, including those in small communities.

He echoed Borovoy's concern that if various religious groups receive public aid, we could be left with a large Protestant school system, which would be a betrayal of Jews in smaller communities.

Jules Kronis argued that communal funding for private schools "makes about as much sense as privately funding an army" and that Jewish schools are necessary to produce "Jewish intellectuals and not just intellectual Jews."

Harry Simon, a labor arbitrator, told the meeting a "sound position" for the Jewish community would be to support government aid only in support of the secular studies portion of schooling, while Segal noted that CJC didn't support all of Bill 30, but rather it supports the principle of extension of funding to Jewish schools if Catholic funding is extended.

Rose Wolfe called for "decency" in the articulated Jewish position while J.B. Salsberg said it was politically inadvisable to appear to publicly support the Catholic position.

"If they get it, we'll get it. If they don't get it, we won't get it. We don't have to announce we're for their rights. We're for our rights," he said.

He supported a position favoring public aid for the secular subjects taught in Jewish schools. "We're entitled to that," he stated.

Louis Lenkinski noted that public funding, if advanced, will likely be conditional on access for non-Jewish children to Jewish schools as well as some input in Jewish schools by non-Jewish boards of education.

Charles Zaionz noted that Alberta Jewish schools receive up to 80% funding from the provincial government and that there has been no appreciable impact on the province's public schools.

Cancer society district elects Butovsky as head

By
MARK DODICK

TORONTO —
A Jewish community activist and former cancer patient has been elected president of the Metropolitan Toronto District of the Canadian Cancer Society.

Sid Butovsky, a founder of Congregation Darchei Noam, took office recently, and will serve in the voluntary position for two years.

Sid Butovsky

Born in Ottawa in 1922, Butovsky came to Toronto in 1959 to work in construction and property management. He has been a supporter of Israel Bonds and a fund raiser for the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot.

He began working for the cancer society in 1978 following the successful removal of a lung in treatment for lung cancer.

Encouraged to contribute to the society by his wife Lillian who served on the education committee of the national board, Butovsky began as construction division chairman of the fund raising campaign of the Toronto unit.

In 1979, he became vice-chairman of the general campaign for the Toronto unit, and in 1980, vice-chairman of that body.

Butovsky then climbed the ladder of responsibility to become president of the Toronto unit in 1983, and was elected to his present position in October.

The new president says his goals include making an extra effort to include members of the Jewish and other ethnic communities, "to put out the welcome mat to all communities, and make a special effort because of the language and cultural barriers."

Butovsky, who spends about 30 hours a week on society business, says, "We're part of a team that's trying to win the battle against cancer.

"There's a real partnership between the fund raisers and the medical research team. We need each other."

In addition to his duties with the cancer society, Butovsky is vice-president of the Jewish Public Library, and a member of the board of directors and executive committee of Kehillah, the housing authority of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Butovsky and his wife Lillian, a volunteer at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, have a son Jonah, a high school student.

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Organizations and People

...Here's the husband's version of the situation

TORONTO –

The Canadian Jewish News, in its Nov. 21 issue, ran a story on a 34-year-old Jewish Thornhill woman, Susan (not her real name) who is suffering from cancer and says her husband left her with two children. She said her husband had no fixed address and is meeting his "barest legal requirements" in providing child support payments.

The article stated that a direct mail campaign was under way, with the cooperation of Toronto rabbis David Monson and David Cooper, to solicit emergency funds that would help Susan move out of her house, help pay rent in her new premises, provide full-time domestic help for her and her children and generally, help ease her pain.

The story added that through questionable advice, Susan agreed to sell her house, which has an outstanding mortgage of $72,000 and a bank lien of $50,000. She said that left her without enough money to pack and move but if she didn't, she could face a lawsuit from the house's new owner.

She also said she has personal debts of about $25,000, which she claimed were incurred mainly by her husband. That, she maintained, left her with inadequate funds to continue living comfortably and to provide for her children.

The newspaper quoted Susan as saying her husband is providing only $200 a week in child support payments. Susan also said her husband has a criminal record.

The article was intended to help Susan, an orphan, raise funds in the Jewish community through The Justice For All Network in order to help ease her pain and care for her children.

However, in the interest of fairness, The CJN has agreed to present Susan's husband's version of events.

To begin with, Susan's 38-year-old husband, whom we'll call Fred, says he did not leave his wife; he says he was asked to leave sometime last August.

Fred does not have a criminal record. He was given a conditional discharge on a charge of assault causing bodily harm (on a third party) and placed on six months probation. That does not carry a record.

Fred does have a fixed address, and has since he and Susan split.

Fred was required by a September court order to pay $200 a week in support as well as the upkeep of the matrimonial house, which included first mortgage and taxes, gas, water, electricity, cable TV and telephone (limited to $50 a month). His total monthly payments to Susan, he says, have been as high as $1,600.

However, Fred has not paid the mortgage and tax payments since that order, saying he could not afford them. (The mortgage payments and taxes on the house come to $929.57 a month).

A later court order increased the weekly support payments by $100 to compensate Susan for a car taken away from her. The car had been owned by Fred's parents' company and was reclaimed when Fred and Susan split.

Fred says he's not aware of any $25,000 personal debt Susan may have and if she does, he says the debts are not mainly his.

The Nov. 21 article said a judge had ruled that Fred had to pay the first and last month's rent on Susan's new townhouse but that he had not complied with that order. In fact, a master had ordered that Susan's first and last month's rent, her moving costs, the cost of installing two telephones, two cable TV outlets and her personal tax arrears, be paid from the proceeds of the sale of the house. This order was arrived at by consent from both parties.

The article mentioned that both parties were going back to court Dec. 9 and that "proceedings could get ugly." That court appearance, adjourned to a later date, will involve just the parties' lawyers and centre on getting increased support payments.

The article stated that all donations to Susan were being supervised by the accounting firm of Orenstein & Partners and that they are tax-deductible.

A spokesman for the firm informed The CJN that in fact, donations are not tax-deductible.

The story said all donations could be sent to The Justice For All Network. It should be noted that this organization was set up by a close friend of Susan's for the express purpose of soliciting donations for Susan.

Readers may be interested to know of a new twist to the story. The people who bought Susan's home recently backed out of the deal and allowed her to move back (she had already packed and moved to her townhouse). But since Fred has been in arrears on the mortgage and tax payments and there were no proceeds from the sale of the house (since it wasn't sold), Susan says this has created new hardships for her.

In any event, The CJN regrets any inconvenience or embarrassment this episode may have caused Fred.

The CJN now considers this matter closed to further debate.

Business helps cope with aging parents, kids

TORONTO –

A local entrepreneur has started a business he says will help those of the "sandwich" generation cope with aging parents and their own kids.

Peter Cook, president of "We Care" For You, says that most of the people inquiring about his novel service are sandwiched between the double responsibilities of caring for children and parents who need help with traveling or household chores.

"We Care" For You provides those services to the elderly, and to the handicapped at a nominal fee, says Cook.

Begun in May, the business now serves almost 200 clients with services which range from chauffeuring to simple repairs to companionship, Cook explains.

Cook says he noticed his own mother having difficulties with day-to-day tasks which her children could not always help with. And there are volunteer agencies, "but a lot of volunteers found they are being used," by wealthy people who could afford to pay, says Cook, adding that volunteers are not always as reliable as employees.

His employees, he says, include many senior citizens, "who are unemployable only because of their age. But they relate well to those they serve."

The 50 people who work for We Care, "are not out to make a big buck," Cook says. This allows the company to keep charges reasonable, and Cook adds he has checked around, and says his fee for a handyman is a little lower than any other service.

The cost of the service is $25 for membership; $6 per hour for companionship; $8 per hour for a handymen; $6 per hour plus 20 cents per kilometre for chauffeur. The services require a minimum assignment of four hours, and Cook suggests booking two to three days in advance for any service.

Cook's company now serves people in the area between Lake Ontario and Steeles Ave., the Don Valley Parkway and Islington Ave.

But the University of Manitoba graduate, who teaches entrepreneurship at Centennial College, hopes eventually to expand to include all of the metropolitan and surrounding areas. He envisages setting up franchises in other parts of the province.

To join the service either phone 481-2733 or mail the memership fee to "We Care" For You, 275 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto M4T 1P3.

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Permanent rent review system

Ontario announces major new housing policy

By
PATRICIA RUCKER

TORONTO —

Rent controls are here to stay, Ontario Housing Minister Alvin Curling said last week as he introduced a major new housing policy for the province.

The permanent rent review system he announced as part of the overall policy should, according to Curling, streamline the process and reduce its present adversarial nature.

Twenty-eight rent review officers, based in 22 offices across the province, will be hired to process rent review applications and to conduct tenant/landlord meetings "in a thorough, but less formal way," Curling told the Legislature.

Only those cases which can't be settled by the review officers will be sent to a rent review hearings board. Curling expects that less than one-third of all disputes will have to be carried through to the second stage.

A number of provisions in the rent review policy will make it more difficult for landlords to slip unfair rent increases through.

• The limit on the annual increase landlords can charge without going to review has been lowered from 6 to 4 per cent, retroactive to Aug. 1, 1985. The limit will be in effect until at least Aug. 1, 1986.

• Units built after 1975, and units renting for more than $750 a month, now fall under rent review.

• A province-wide, phone-in rent registry will be set up so tenants can find out legal rents. The registry will apply to large buildings, starting in June, 1986, and to buildings with six or fewer units 18 months to two years later.

The registry is designed to stop unscrupulous landlords from jumping rents illegally when a new tenant moves in.

• Landlords who charge an illegal rent will now be taken to court. Convictions will bring a maximum fine of $2,000 for individuals and $25,000 for corporations.

• The 5 per cent cap on rent increases which landlords can pass on to tenants after buying and financing a building will be permanent.

• For the first time, tenants will be able to apply for a review of rent increases granted previously to landlords to cover high interest rates they no longer pay.

There are also provisions aimed at gaining cooperation from landlords and builders.

A rent review advisory committee will be set up to help the ministry work out ramifications of the new policy.

It will be co-chaired by William Grenier, chairman of Pagebrook Holdings, Inc., which owns 4,000 housing units in the province, and Mary Hogan, director of Parkdale Community Legal Services.

One of the committee's responsibilities will be to develop formulae to bring in rent controls for post-1975 buildings that will be neither uneconomic for landlords nor unfair to tenants.

An interministerial committee is being established to find a way to provide

Alvin Curling

relief to landlords of small pre-1976 buildings who were charging rents below market value when controls were imposed in 1975, and who found themselves permanently locked into chronically depressed rents.

The 5-year Ontario program, which Curling estimates will lead to the construction of 345,000 new rental units, will cost the provincial government more than $500 million.

The industry's response to the tough proposals on rent controls has been unenthusiastic, but builders can take some comfort from the government's offer of $75 million in interest-free loans to private developers.

The loans, part of an expanded Renterprise program, will help build 5,000 "affordable" units. Up to 2,000 of these will be rent-geared-to-income units.

The program parallels — but does not go as far as — federal housing minister Bill McKnight's housing policy announced last week, which restricts housing subsidies to only those in need.

Included in the $500 million total, in addition to the $75 million in interest-free loans, are:

• $208 million in subsidies plus $68 million in development loans for non-profit and co-op housing groups.

• $100 million in loans for the upgrading of 18,500 older rental units.

• $39 million to produce, through the Convert-to-Rent program, a total of 6,000 units of hostel-type accommodation for singles and new rental housing within single-family homes.

• $34 million for rent-geared-to-income subsidies in the Renterprise and Convert-to-Rent programs.

• $2.6 million for two seniors' programs — equity co-ops and retirement communities.

• $2.5 million in grants to municipalities to develop starter homes for families.

• $1 million for the development of education and training programs in property management.

• $986,000 to assist municipalities to profile their rental housing.

• $820,000 to encourage shared housing, an option especially for the elderly, through grants to municipalities for counseling services.

Over the next five years, Curling told the Legislature, the goal of the program is to achieve the construction of 300,000 houses by the private sector and 45,000 directly through provincial funding.

He pledged, with the support of the minister of municipal affairs, Bernard Grandmaitre, that the government would "take a strong stand against efforts to remove sound affordable rental stock through conversions and demolitions."

Anyone wishing further information on proposed changes to rent review can call: in Toronto, 585-2838; outside Toronto, 1-800-387-9060 (toll-free).

Cohon dinner chairman picked

TORONTO —

Neville Kirchmann has been named dinner chairman for the Canadian Friends of Haifa University tribute on May 22 to community leader George Cohon, Michael Davis, acting national president and Toronto chapter chairman of the organization has announced.

Neville Kirchmann

A university development fund in Cohon's name will be established at the dinner at the Sheraton Centre. The following week Cohon will leave for Israel where he will receive an honorary doctorate of philosophy at Haifa University.

Accepting the appointment, Kirchmann, who is president and chief executive officer of Coca-Cola Ltd. in Toronto, referred to Cohon's "outstanding qualities of leadership.

"Cohon's devotion to his community, his country and to Israel have always guided him in serving many causes with distinction," Kirchmann said.

He noted that Haifa University has more than 6,000 students this year, "but there are many more Jewish, Arab and Druze youngsters who should be attending the university.

"They are unable to do so because not enough money is available to develop and increase both the faculties and the facilities at the university.

"The Cohon Development Fund," he said, "will do much to alleviate this problem."

Kirchmann, 47, came to Canada from South Africa in 1975. A graduate of the University of Witwatersrand, he joined Coca-Cola in Johannesburg in 1964, and served in various positions before being appointed general manager for the Southern Africa Region in 1974.

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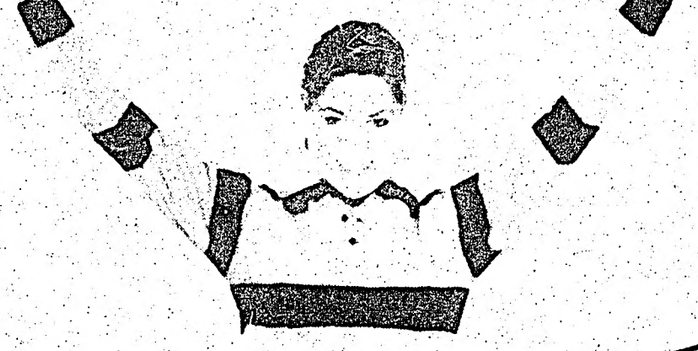

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BB chanukiah-lighting ceremony

Soviet Jews' plight stressed

By
SERGE TITLEY

TORONTO —
It is most imperative that Western Jews act now to help alleviate the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union, Michael Rosenberg, chairman of B'nai B'rith Canada's Soviet Jewry committee told a recent chanukiah-lighting ceremony at Toronto's City Hall.

A bone-chilling December wind threatened to extinguish the flames in the chanukiah set up in Nathan Phillips Square by members of Metro B'nai B'rith lodges and the Jewish Students Union at the University of Toronto.

Rosenberg said the ceremony was being held to remind the world of the difficult circumstances of Soviet Jewry, and the harsh treatment meted out to Refuseniks in particular.

"Our brethren, members of my and my children's generation, cry out to us. We cannot afford to deny them the voice they so desperately desire and so richly deserve.

"We free Jews of the West are obligated to come to the aid of our oppressed Soviet brothers and sisters. We will never be able to forgive ourselves if we do not act now, for Soviet Refuseniks are the martyrs — the Kiddush HaShem — of today," Rosenberg said.

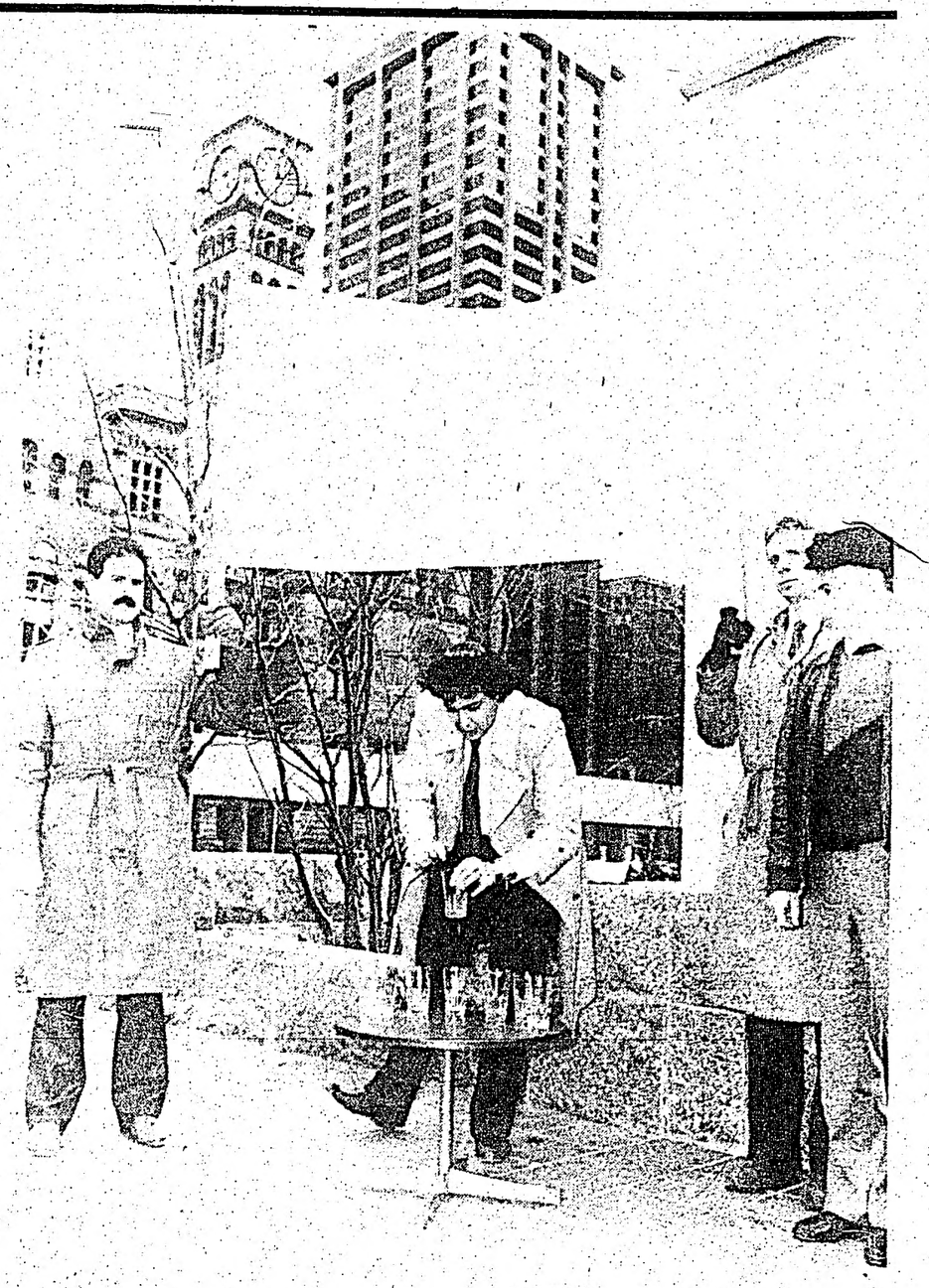
Genya Intrator, advisor to the committee, read a letter, signed by 22 wives of Refuseniks. The plea asks Western Jews to imagine what it must be like to be arrested in the dead of the night, to be held without proper regard for due process of law, and to suffer under extremely harsh conditions of imprisonment.

Eight Refuseniks, who have been adopted by BB lodges in the Metro area, were highlighted for particular attention. The chanukiah was lit for Aleksandr Yakia, Zakhr Zushani, Leah Mariasin, Lev Elbert, Evgeny Lein, Aba Taratuta, and Leonid Velvosky.

Among those taking part in the brief ceremony were: Wally Reinstein, national Hillel coordinator for the BB; Debbi Cowitz, national membership and program coordinator for BB; Rabbi Jeff Ableser of Toronto's Temple Sinai; David Scher, president of the Yorkdale BB lodge; Colin Ripsman, president of U of T Hillel; Michael Pekarski, a former Refusenik who has founded the Sholom Aleichem Lodge; Rabbi Moishe Silverman, director of B'nai B'rith-Hillel; David Isman, a BB representative from Western Canada, and Rodger Dando, constituency assistant of Barbara McDougall, federal minister of state for finance.

Dando read a message from McDougall, which said that since Chanukah is a Jewish celebration of freedom it is a fitting time in which to remember these Jews who still cannot practice their faith freely.

Simultaneous commemorative ceremonies were slated for Montreal and Winnipeg.



Wally Reinstein kindles the Chanukah lights for Soviet Refuseniks.

Zundel tries to sell his art

By
PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO —
Christmas is the season for peace and goodwill, so imagine the incongruity of purchasing a painting as a Christmas gift by a man convicted of spreading lies denying the Holocaust ever took place.

Yet that is precisely what falsifier Ernst Zundel is asking. Zundel, convicted of publishing a tract which claimed the Holocaust was a hoax perpetrated by world Jewry, recently circulated flyers inviting buyers to his Carlton St. home to "invest in a famous name. Purchase a Zundel painting."

Later, he appeared at a German cultural festival where he peddled his paintings before organizers asked him to leave.

In his 1-page flyer, Zundel states he has sold more than 700 of his paintings, and they hang in homes in the South Pacific, South America, South Africa, Europe and Canada.

But a main selling point of a Zundel original, he says, is that "your artist is a somebody who is going to make more and more news in the years to come. That very fact enhances the value of any artwork.

"Because I have become a 'somebody' by making a political statment on behalf of our Cause," he continues, "you too can make your own statment to your friends and visitors by showing them a painting by Ernst Zundel."

Buying a Zundel painting will insure that you have a "conversation piece and can lead to discussions of important matters which I am at this time forbidden to discuss," the flyer states.

Shortly after he circulated the flyer, Zundel displayed his art at the Christkindle (Christ child) crafts show in Kitchener until organizers asked him to leave after being inundated with complaints, Canadian Press reports.

"It was a slip on my part," said Hans Grumme, organizer of the event. "I didn't know then what I know about Zundel now. His presence, his name (at the show) were tasteless.

"None of us like what this man says, what he stands for."

As the afternoon wore on, Grumme received many complaints from people attending the show. It was not Zundel's art, mostly of Canadian landscapes, but his beliefs which prompted his exit.

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Awards for enhancing environment

Campaign promotes keeping Israel beautiful

By
LILI EYLON

JERUSALEM (WZPS)— At an army camp somewhere in Israel, dignitaries and guests gather on the manicured lawn for a ceremony awarding prizes to the neatest, most beautiful military base. In a Jerusalem school auditorium, youngsters give a musical performance about cleanliness in the school and the city to visiting local schoolchildren, and proudly receive citations for enhancing their environment.

In Ashkelon, policemen arrive from all parts of the country to watch colleagues receive awards for a well-kept station. And at a presentation in Tel Aviv, some 600 men and women from Israel's world of industry witness the distribution of stars from an organization called CBI to representatives of 165 factories.

CBI — the Council for a Beautiful Israel — is the common denominator in all these scenes. The organization is Israel's watchdog for aesthetics and cleanliness, flowers and greenery, environmental improvement and environmental self-help in just about every area of life. Its slogan, Keep Israel Beautiful, promotes a do-it-yourself campaign to preserve and beautify the country's natural and historic sites.

CBI sprang out of a 1970 Knesset debate stressing the need for an organized effort to protect Israel's environment. At the Knesset's request, Aura Herzog, then director-general of CBI, mobilized some 60 prominent townplanners, architects, civic leaders, educators, businessmen and lawyers to make recommendations for improving the quality of life in the cities and promoting environmental education programs among youth.

An initial survey demonstrated a great need for environmental education, showing that only 2% of Israelis were concerned with the condition of their environment. Wrote one CBI board member, "Israelis are ready to die for the motherland, but don't seem to care how they live in it."

Fifteen years later, over half a dozen regional chapters, scores of volunteers and thousands of participants in various projects attest to CBI's success. Preserving Israel's environment has become an international cause, with CBI chapters in the United States, Switzerland, Britain and Belgium actively supporting its extensive program and new chapters establishing themselves in Holland and West Germany. Aura Herzog, now Israel's First Lady, serves as the council's honorary international president.

CBI's educational campaigns begin with very young Israelis via a TV puppet — a donkey called Chompy. Last year, the puppet promoted cleaning beaches; this year he demonstrated paper recycling as a solution to litter. The orange collection bins and pickup trucks of a Hadera recycling plant have become a familiar sight as the result of a spot in which rubbish collected by Chompy and his young human friends is recycled into clean, usable material.

Chompy's lessons are reinforced by books and textbooks for elementary school students on subjects such as litter prevention, horticulture and using one's hands to improve the environment. For secondary school pupils, a series of slides entitled Beauty and Ugliness in Israel provides a basis for heated class discussions on taste and aesthetics.

In order to involve large portions of the population in its work, CBI resorts to frequent competitions. It has sponsored contests for slogans, songs, children's drawings and — in conjunction with the popular TV consumer program Kolbotek — for the cleanest and most attrractive gas station and shop window. Prize-winning objects such as benches, bus station shelters, litter bins and billboards are now in wide use throughout the country.

CBI's Design Committee is currently devising a workable plan to give a more specific character to Israel's development towns, which all tend to look drab and similar in appearance. A commiteee of lawyers and architects recently recommended that the ministry of the interior issue directives requiring all construction elements such as pipes, air-conditioning vents and heating units to be planned from the outset as an integral part of all new buildings. A third team is relieving the bareness of the Tel Aviv-Haifa road by introducing trees and greenery as well as a system for soil conservation near overhead bridges.

The council's projects, large and small, derive a good deal of help from its friends abroad, who realize that their investments can set in motion projects of lasting moral and social value. Indeed, the effort expended toward enhancing the Israelis' surroundings at home, at work and at play helps determine to what degree life will be attractive for Israel's residents themselves, and for her many visitors, for years to come.

Israel Police Commissioner David Kraus (right) awards the prize for the 1985 Beautiful Police Station Competition, on behalf of the Council For Beautiful Israel, to an Ashkelon police station.

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Diaper absorbency explored

Students get to "bottom line" in science fair

By
PATRICIA RUCKER

TORONTO —

Two grade 8 boys at Associated Hebrew Schools can give you the bottom line on disposable diapers.

At the school's annual science fair last week, Hadar Bombard and Darren Sederoff proudly explained the results of their experiment on the absorbency of four best-selling brands.

Their curiosity was purely scientific. Neither has a diaper-aged sibling at home — although Darren said, with a grin, "I'd like one."

Their experiment was among the 80 on exhibit. Every student in grades 7 and 8 at Associated prepares a project, and approximately 25% are chosen for display at the fair, according to science fair coordinator Joe Leibovitch.

"The approach we take is to stress the scientific method," Leibovitch said. "We don't expect inventions or scientific breakthroughs. We want them to learn how to apply scientific methods to everyday life.

"For example, they learn the value of a control experiment. If all you have is a mass of variables, with no control to check them against, you can't determine the true cause of your results."

Leibovitch said that the five science teachers — Bill Campbell, Louis Franken, Sol Morganstein, Herb Spindel, and Leibovitch himself — try to play down the competitive angle and emphasize the joy of participation, "but our kids are competitive."

A first prize is given in each of three categories — biology, chemistry, and physics — for each grade. Students can work individually or in teams.

All of the 125 students whose experiments made it into the fair — like Bombard and Sederoff — were kept busy explaining their projects to the crowd of 500 who toured the exhibition.

But the winners drew a lot of attention. Robert Wexler, whose evaluation of different types of water filters won first prize in grade 7 chemisty, dressed up his display with Lego buildings, an Israeli flag, and even a toy boat.

Josh Schimmer, an award winner last year, took first place in grade 8 biology with an investigation of the factors that affect dilation of the pupil of the eye.

Using a minimum of equipment — a penlight, a template to measure the pupil, and a bucket of painfully cold water — and a lot of willing volunteer subjects of all ages, he was able to demonstrate that light and pain cause the pupil to widen, and that the muscles that expand the pupil weaken with age.

"So if an older person is going into a dark room," he explained, "it's a good idea to take a young kid along. The kid's pupils will dilate more and he'll be able to guide the older person."

The stereotype that girls are less interested than boys in "hard science" was shattered by a quartet of winning entries.

Two girls shared first place in grade 7 physics. Karin Zelinkovsky built a complicated exhibit demonstrating a number of principles of electromagnetism, and Elana Shapiro broke white light into its components through prisms encased in a wooden box.

The team of Karen Burke and Reena Lovinsky took first place in grade 8 physics with a carefully crafted demonstration of the effects of distribution of mass on inertia.

And Rebecca Geist won in the grade 8 chemistry category with a comparison of natural and synthetic dyes.

Among the natural dyes, Concord grape juice has staying power (as anyone who has ever spilled it on a white tablecloth knows) — "but beet juice is awful (as a dye). It washes right out," Rebecca found.

In grade 7 biology, two winning teams of boys displayed green thumbs: David Chasson and Ari Zaionz by growing plants upside down and sideways to show the effects of gravity on roots and stems, and Alan Jurkowitz and Moshe Segal, by growing them inside and outside plastic bags, to demonstrate the effects of evaporation on the plants' need for ground moisture.

And just in case you wondered why your grandmother kept bread in a breadbox, the third co-winners in grade 7 biology, Merov Jacobson and Reva Shapero, showed that mold spores are present in the air.

The judges included Fred Burford, a former North York principal now teaching at Associated; Brian Krasman, a North York vice-principal, and four science specialists enrolled in the faculty of education at the University of Toronto: Jonathan Falk, Michael Janson, Jeff Sadara and David Sugarman.

But the best judgment of the fair came from Associated science teacher Spindel as he looked at all the gears and gizmos.

"What naches you get," he kvelled.

Robert Wexler explains his prize-winning experiment to another award winner, Karin Zelinkovsky. [Graphic Artists photo]

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The essence of "fressence"

Panel discusses finer points of good nutrition

By
PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO —
If the 75 people attending the most recent of the Sunday at Bloor lecture series hadn't heard about the topic before they got there, the brunch menu should have been a dead giveaway.

There were whole wheat bagels, special low fat cottage cheese, low fat tuna salad, fresh citrus fruit and veggies.

A nutritional lunch if ever there was one, and nutrition was what the people crowding into the Bloor Jewish Community Centre came to hear about.

"Food, food, glorious food, to thine own self be true," was how the JCC brochure billed the lecture, with the subtitle "Nutrition: fad of the 80s or key to your health?"

If the people starving for information expected the lecture to begin with the do's and don'ts of eating, moderator Joanne Yolles' opening remarks may have thrown them a curve.

Yolles is the pastry chef at Scaramouche Restaurant, and she kicked off the discussion by telling the audience that on a daily basis she works with literally kilos of chocolate and refined flour, dozens and dozens of eggs, 35% cream — even 50% cream on occasion — nuts and other high-cal ingredients.

She's convinced, she said, that despite some people's concerns over health and their strenuous workouts at the Y during the day, those same people frequent Scaramouche at night.

There are those who justify their indulgence in double cheese cakes with the excuse that they "didn't eat all day," she noted.

While many in the audience may have been prompted to dream of rich chocolate mousse and other fat-forming pastries, they were quickly brought to earth by social worker Sheila Walker, who told the audience our society confronts us with a "paradox" of "wonderful desserts, but we're told to be skinny."

Diets, she said, are one of the mechanisms we're expected to use to remain thin, but at best they don't work and at worst they can lead to feelings of failure, low self-esteem and even to more serious eating disorders.

The result may be anorexia, chronic dieting and self-starvation, and bulemia, going on a binge and then vomiting so the body remains thin.

Dieting doesn't work because after dieting, the body tries to regain its "set point" — its normal weight, she said.

During dieting, the body interprets the reduction in food as starvation, and slows down the normal metabolism. When you go back to normal eating, the body interprets that as overeating and you gain weight.

Walker suggested various connections between sex and weight. She noted that some sex counselors advise their clients they can increase sexual excitement by "doing everything short of intercourse." Under those circumstances, rarely do clients refrain from going all the way, she said.

Something similar happens to people who follow certain diets where they are told to measure the food precisely, to put their fork down between bites and to treat eating and preparing a meal with exacting care.

The result, she said, is that those on such diets rarely refrain from going all the way and eating.

She suggested another connection between sex and dieting. "Our puritanical attitude to food has replaced our puritanical attitude to sex," she said. "We look to something else to torture ourselves with."

Adolescents are particularly prone to eating disorders because they are given the message society values thin people at the moment their bodies are going through changes that leads to change of shape and weight gain.

They can go on a diet, feel "starvation," binge, feel guilt and then induce vomiting to purge the system of the food.

Dr. Norman Steinhart, a general practitioner whose chief interest is nutrition, said eating disorders can cause physical problems. He advised those who are "obsessed" with weight to seek professional help.

He told the audience there has been some successful treatment through hypnosis and psychotherapy. Using hypnosis, a practitioner can substitute other concerns for thoughts about food so the overeater responds to emotional stresses not by eating, but by dealing with the problems.

Nutrition, he said, is "one of the more over-discussed and under-knowledged topics." He discussed some popular misconceptions surrounding food and diet, including vitamin supplements.

Contrary to popular belief, "supplements are just that. They're not a substitute."

He noted that North America has no deficiency in food, though we may have an overabundance of certain items such as preservatives and added chemicals, plus a dietary shortfall of fibre and complex starches.

Problems from this dietary deficiency manifest themselves in middle age with chronic diseases, he said.

Steinhart said the four basic foods in the Canada food guide (milk and milk products, meats and alternates, breads and cereals, fruits and vegetables) represent the minimum needed to prevent disease, but they are not necessarily enough to guarantee health. Even under some government guidelines, certain trace minerals may be missing from a healthy diet ,and some people, depending on genetic background, may need certain foods to remain healthy.

Some other misconceptions tackled by Steinhart include:

• "Starch is fattening." It's not the complex carbohydrates that are fattening (one gram of starch has less calories than a gram of protein or fat), he said, but the foods added to items such as pasta.

• "Lots of protein is good for you." Unless you do heavy work where muscle is broken down and replaced, too much protein can cause problems for the liver and kidneys.

• "Margarine is better than butter." Not true, he said. Both are bad and both should be eaten in limited amounts — about ½ a teaspoon a day.

• "If you're overweight, it's because you eat a lot." Not necessarily, he said. Some people use less energy doing the same work as thin people and so don't burn up as many calories as a thinner person.

• "People say, 'I don't add sugar or salt to food.' You don't have to, Steinhart said, the manufacturer does it for you.

Steinhart advised those who wanted to improve their nutrition to inform themselves and avoid purported nutritional counselors who don't have proper training.

He suggested making "realistic changes" in lifestyle and waiting for them to take effect. And he urged the audience to support moves to have packaging that contained good nutritional information.

The nutrition lecture was the third in a series of six Sunday at Bloor events, which have proved very successful, said JCC staff liaison Harold Cipin.

The next event in the series is scheduled for Jan. 26 when Senator Anne Cools will deal with a political topic.

That will be followed by a discussion on Feb. 23 on a topic related to the media, with journalists Al Sokol and David Lewis Stein of the Toronto Star and Sonita Horvitch of the Financial Post participating.

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Beach community lights chanukiah as well as tree

By
JEFF ROSEN

TORONTO —
Jews and Christians usually celebrate their respective holidays at this time of year separately. However this year the two faiths came together to celebrate in the Beach community.

Ari Nerman, president of the Beach Hebrew Institute, told The CJN that a menorah lighting ceremony was added to the annual Christmas tree lighting in the community and that he was invited to turn on the menorah on the first night of Chanukah.

The wood menorah, which remained lit during the eight nights of Chanukah, was erected by the Beach-Queen St. Business Association and was placed at the base of the Christmas tree in Kew Gardens, in the "heart" of the Beach.

Nerman said the menorah lighting was important as it was a "recognition that another faith celebrates a holiday at this time.

It's important for the Jewish community in the area and as a whole," said Nerman.

The Beach community, bounded approximately by Coxwell, Victoria Park and the Danforth, includes about 35-40 Jewish families.

The 65-year-old synagogue in the area includes over 100 members.

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Develops sensory-motor program

Therapist tries to pinpoint children's problems

By
CYNTHIA GASNER

TORONTO —

"I don't know what I'll do with that kid — he's driving me crazy and he's falling behind in school."

This is a familiar lament by parents who are frustrated and don't know what to do or what the problem is.

"There may be a number of reasons why children have problems at school, with their peers or in their everyday activities," says Ellen Yack, an occupational therapist who is the director of the Community Paediatric Therapy Centre, a private theraputic clinic located at 2817 Keele St. in Downsview, 633-8674.

"Many children who do not have any obvious or diagnosed physical or neurological disorder may have a learning disability, a development disorder or a sensory motor delay that could create major problems if not diagnosed and treated," she says. "And often these manifest themselves in behavior and learning problems."

In an interview with The CJN, the 27-year-old therapist who was a senior therapist at Mississauga Hospital before opening her private practice cited some of the characteristics of children who should be checked by a pediatrician or family physician to ensure that there are no physical or neurological disorders.

Children who appear awkward and clumsy, have difficulty learning to print and complete written assignments, are hypersensitive to movement or touch, fearful of heights and avoid balance related sports should be examined, she said.

"If a learning disability, motor problem or developmental problem is diagnosed or suspected, the case is usually referred to an occupational therapist for assessment and treatment — usually at a community hospital."

She says that it is not uncommon for a child to wait six months to be assessed and then another six months before receiving treatment. "These parents are often frustrated and angry by the prospects of waiting for extended periods of time."

For this reason, says Yack, she created the Community Paediatric Therapy Centre as an alternative. It allows children from birth to 18 years to begin therapy as soon as a problem is identified.

While Yack was associated with the Mississauga Hospital, she developed a sensory-motor program which uses play activities and exercises to develop balance, coordination and muscle control.

The therapist recalls that she became interested in working with children when she was 13 and became a volunteer at Shadow Lake Camp for mentally retarded children.

Today, Yack is involved in a number of professional associations and serves as chairman of the Toronto Sensory Integration Study Group and she is the chairman of the Occupational/Physical Therapy Committee for the Multiple Handicapped.

Yack studied occupational therapy at the University of Toronto and received a Master's of Education degree at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in special education.

"Too often," says Yack, "parents are told the children will grow out of it — and they hesitate to take any further action. Or they don't know where to go next."

She says that treatment should begin as soon as possible, to prevent developing any additional coordination problems and to prevent a pattern of failure.

Yack emphasizes that treatment may not be a complete cure, but it helps children and teaches them to utilize and optimize the skills they have.

To illustrate her point, Yack reviewed the case of 6-year-old Mark. He was a quiet and passive baby whose speech came early but he sat and walked later than most babies.

His parents noticed that he was a fearful child, afraid to climb steps. He was clumsier than the others and had some problems learning to ride a bicycle.

He had problems cutting and drawing and the kids began ridiculing him in the playground because he had trouble with jumping games and playing ball, and his younger brother was surpassing his skill level.

Frustrated, Mark created disturbances in the class and fell behind in his work. Psycho-educational testing indicated average intelligence and good verbal skills but well below average in non-verbal, manipulative skills.

His pediatrician referred Mark to Yack's centre and an assessment revealed problems in balance, postural reactions and reduced muscle strength. Therefore, he had difficulty in gripping and controlling a pencil and problems coordinating his eyes and hands to catch an object.

For Mark, a 1-hour treatment weekly with balls, barrels, ladders and rocker-boards turned the tide and the youngster began to gain confidence, increase his involvement in school and home activities and he began developing relationships with his peers.

"My advice to parents is when these behavior characteristics prevail for some time, request a reference from your doctor for an occupational therapy assessment."

She notes that many OHIP programs provide for occupational therapy sensory motor assessments and treatments at hospitals. There are options, she says. Some private insurance plans provide for these costs and some unions recognize the value of occupational therapy and have included this in their insurance plans.

As well, children with developmental handicaps can be covered through a special agreement with the Ontario ministry of community and social services.

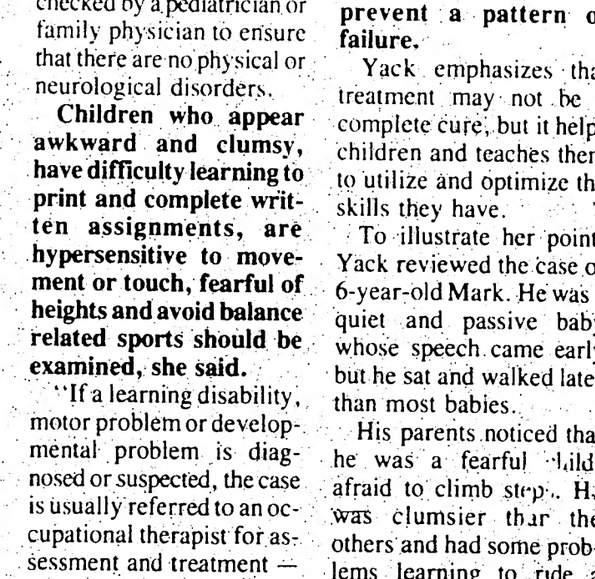
Occupational therapist Ellen Yack demonstrates a play activity at her Community Paediatric Therapy Centre.

Although referrals are not required, Yack says that it is advisable to have an attending physician who can provide the medical history and can be informed of the child's progress.

Yack, who also is a consultant and supervises therapeutic gym programs at private schools for children with learning problems, says that many children only need about six months of treatment and then she sets up home programs which only require periodical monitoring. A full assessment costs $250 and an hour treatment is $40.

"The Community Paediatric Therapy Centre is just another option if you don't want to wait," she says.

"These are invisible problems," she emphasizes, "we know why a person with a physical problem has difficulty, but not this. But this population has the potential of being very successful and more parents are becoming aware of the benefits of therapeutic training."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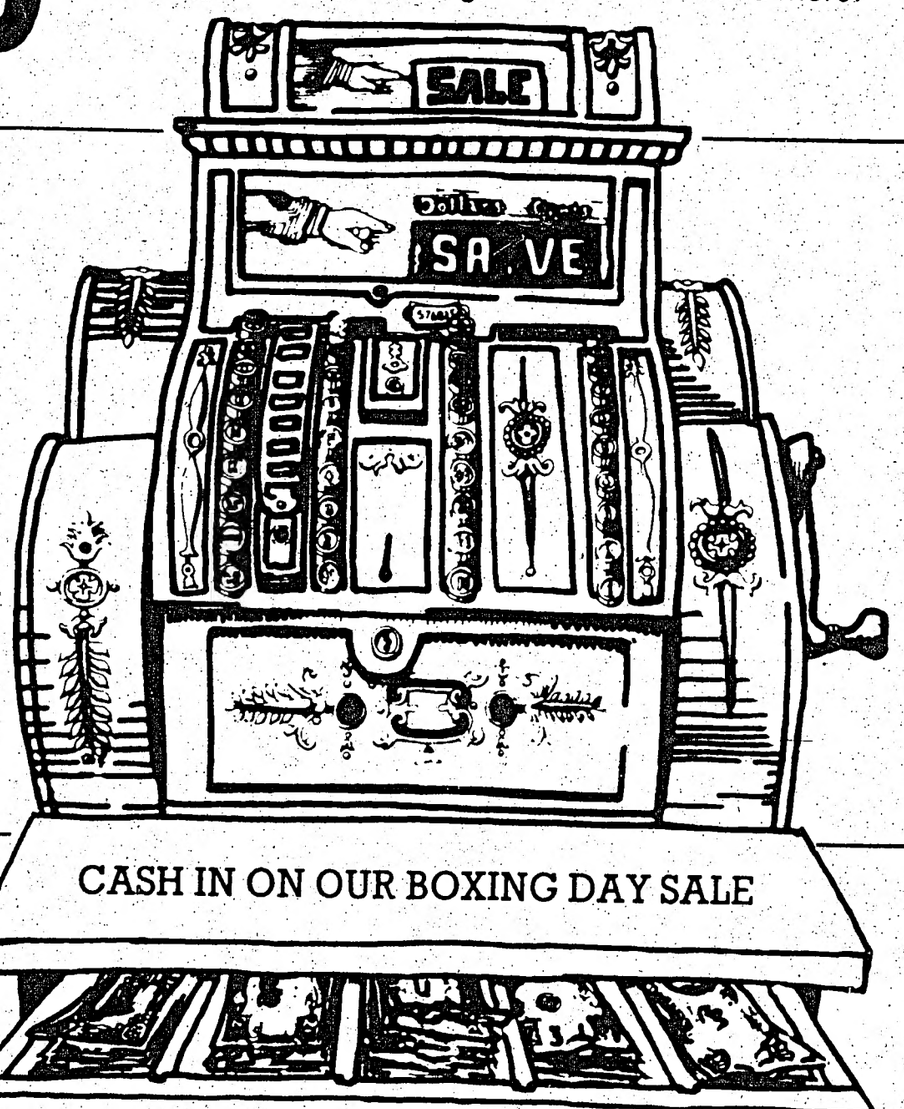

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Year of hard work pays off

First Conservative kibbutz doubles membership

By
JANET MOSHE

JERUSALEM (WZPS)— Midway between Haifa and Lake Kinneret in the central Galilee region, and Kibbutz Hanaton, the first settlement affiliated with the Conservative movemerft, is on the map.

Founded with 25 members in August, 1984, Hanaton has celebrated its first anniversary with almost double that number of residents. And as their hard labor pays off with a promising harvest, some of Hanaton's members can relax with a smile and reminisce about how it all began.

"It was quite a challenge to settle the first Conservative kibbutz," explains 22-year-old Michael Ben-Ami, originally of Chicago. Like many of the original "garin," or nucleus group, Ben-Ami studied at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City.

"After an intensive experience (at Jewish camps) or a similar framework where religious identity is a vital part of the education, people would look for ways to continue the commitment in their everyday lives," says Ben-Ami. "Finally a group reached a consensus that they wanted to make aliya and settle in Israel in a Conservative Jewish framework."

A kibbutz proved to be the most manageable way to realize their dreams, and the first group of Americans set about paving the way. Fitting like a glove into the plans of the settlement department of the Jewish Agency, the frist group went through a "hachshara" or preparatory period on another well-established kibbutz. The plans for Hanaton were drawn up and thrashed over and 25 homes were constructed.

According to another old-timer, 26-year-old David Tamir, Hanaton has been supported by several different groups. In addition to the Jewish Agency, the United Kibbutz Movement has been an important guide in offering advice as well as the benefit of their valuable experience. The Conservative movement in Israel offers spiritual help as well as preparing groups of Israeli youths to spend time on the kibbutz.

And the people are coming. In addition to the first group of primarily North American settlers, young Israelis in a Nahal army unit are spending part of their military service on Hanaton, helping in the development of the kibbutz.

Although Hanaton's existing homes have yet to reach full occupancy, Tamir notes that the kibbutz master plan calls for as many as 500-600 people in the future. And step-by-step, through trial and error, Hanaton's idealistic group of settlers are learning how to live together in their scenic and secluded setting.

Located under the shadow of Mount Atzmon and close to the Arab village of Kfar Manda, Hanaton's location is the biblical northern border of the tribe of Zevulon. Today, the red-tiled roofs of Hanaton's homes overlook an impressive reservoir of the National Water Carrier which provides southern Israel with water from the Sea of Galilee.

Strategically the kibbutz' location is important, and the area's natural beauty cries out for the return to this rocky area of the Galilee neglected for so many years. Hanaton's members see Galilee settlement as an important challenge, and they are glad that they can help to increase the Jewish presence in this area. They also believe that they have a lot to contribute with their particular view of Judaism.

Although traditional, Hanaton differs from the handful of religious kibbutzim in Israel. Members' lives are more entrenched in Judaism than the majority of secular kibbutzniks however, and they observe Shabbat and the laws of kashrut. Although necessity deems that their synagogue be used temporarily as the carpentry shop, services are held daily in the dining room.

Women are not counted for a minyan, but there is no problem of equality of the sexes in Hanaton. "Our decision of whether to count women for a minyan is a question of interpretation of Jewish law and is independent of the status of women on the kibbutz," explains Dudi Ashkenazi.

Ashkenazi, himself, recently replaced a woman in the important position of kibbutz secretary, and other women, such as 32-year-old Yehudith Kahn also hold top decision-making positions of responsibility.

As kibbutz treasurer, Kahn is occupied with balancing Hanaton's books. "We have no shortage of work on the kibbutz, but money-making industry is lacking and must be developed quickly," she says.

"At present, 10 people work off the kibbutz, and their salaries go into communal coffers," according to Kahn. "Clover and wheat are grown, and a sheep dairy is planned." Final negotiations are also being made for the purchase of a plastics factory which will provide sheet plastic for various uses in the local and world market. Also on the drawing board are plans for an educational seminar centre which will host visiting groups.

In addition to the development of industry, internal growth is one of Hanaton's biggest asset. The kibbutz' six married couples will be joined by an additional four in the fall, and new offspring are on the way.

With an interesting cross-section of new immigrants and Israelis, a breathtaking location, and its traditional values of Conservative Judaism, Kibbutz Hanaton is carving out a niche in Israel's map of settlements.

JNF is encircling Ashdod with parks

By
SIMON GRIVER

ASHDOD (WZPS) — Israel's southern port city of Ashdod is being besieged. But the residents need not fear for they are being surrounded by the Jewish National Fund, who far from posing any threat, intend to improve the area's quality of life by planting and developing a green belt of parks and leisure facilities around the city.

The green belt is to be named Ashdod Park, and it will, when completed, encircle the city from the north, east and south (to the west Ashdod is bordered by the Mediterranean). The park will provide the city's residents with recreational opportunities, and most importantly improve municipal pride in a city known for its flourishing industry but lacking natural charm.

Located 20 miles south of Tel Aviv, Ashdod today has a population of 120,000. Built on sand dunes during the 1950s Ashdod has the country's second largest port. The city is criss-crossed by handsome wide boulevards and is replete with shopping malls, parks and cultural amenities.

Ample industry has also sprung up in town including chemical factories, refineries, power stations and military industries. However, while this has provided occupational opportunities for Ashdod's citizens, the city has developed an image of unattractive chimneys belching out smoke.

But according to Amram Alkobi, director of the Coastal Division in the JNF's Central Region, Ashdod's residents currently have a problem if they want to get away from it all. "At the moment the people of Ashdod who want to get out into the country must get into their cars and drive for half an hour," he says.

We want to change that situation so that they can walk just five minutes from their homes and feel that they are in the country. Of course Ashdod Park will also be a great boon for those people who cannot afford cars and it will offer a more exciting environment for the city's children."

In Ashdod itself work has commenced during the last year at two sites and it is hoped that Ashdod Park will be completed within two years at a cost of $16 million. Half the cost will be met by the JNF and half the cost by the Ashdod municipality.

Many of the amenities in Ashdod Park will focus around Nahal Lachish, a small river which at present is dry for most of the year. By redirecting irrigation water from nearby districts, JNF engineers will fill the river bed all year round and thus the people of Ashdod will have boating, swimming and fishing facilities on their doorstep. These amenities will be provided to the east of the town when much of the land surrounding Nahal Lachish has already been cleared and planted with trees.

This 98-acre site will also include horseriding paths, sports fields, children's playgrounds and picnic tables. The project in this part of Ashdod should be finished within a year.

Shabtai Gonen, JNF Inspector for the Central Coastal Region explains, the second site on which Ashdod Park is already being landscaped, is of ecological interest. "This is an area of great natural fertility," he says.

"There are already Sycamore trees here which are over 1,000 years old, as well as accacias of an African species which cannot be found anywhere further north than here."

The JNF has trimmed all the trees already in the location (now to be known as Sycamore Park) and planted an extra 5,000 trees thanks to the generous donation of Italian philanthropist Pino Funero. The already existing trees provide ideal shade for local residents out on a picnic.

Hanaton, Israel's first Conservative kibbutz, is growing.

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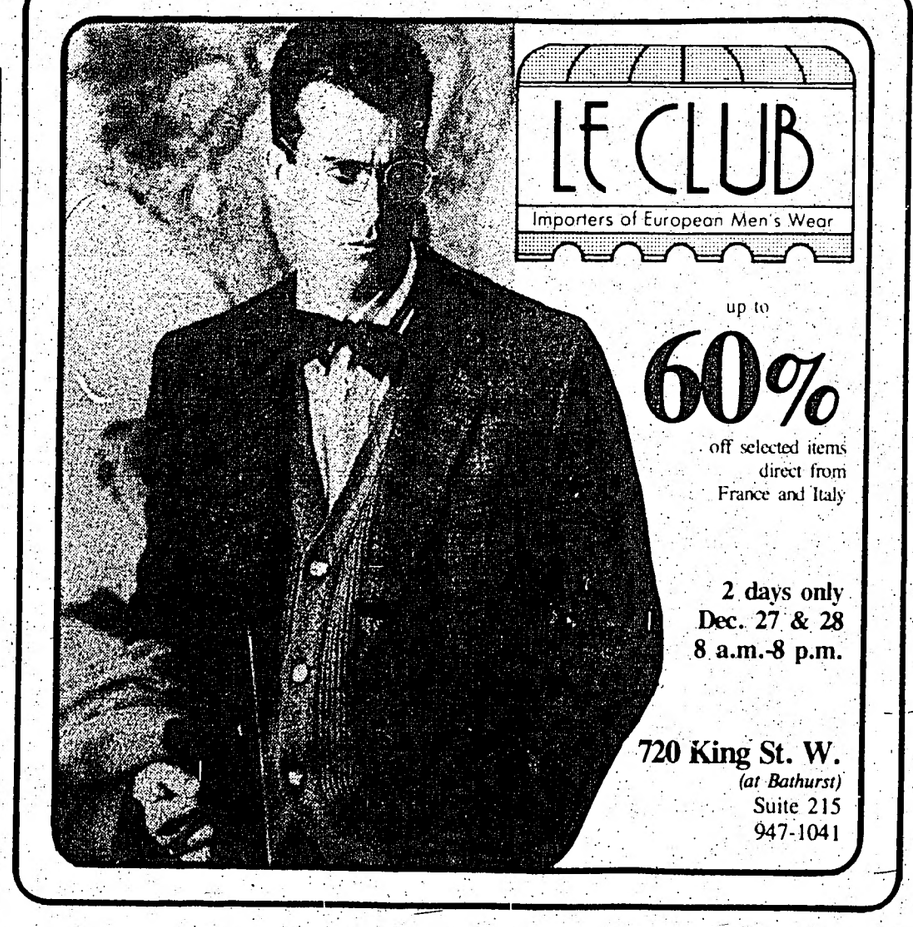

Report paints potentially grim picture

More AJCS financial aid urged for day schools

By
JANICE ARNOLD

MONTREAL — Allied Jewish Community Services must immediately assume much more financial responsibility for Montreal's Jewish day schools and, in particular, must subsidize the total cost of the financial assistance provided for families who cannot afford to pay for their children's school fees, says a report prepared by the Association of Jewish Day Schools.

The Report on Community Funding for Jewish Day Schools paints a grim picture of the future quality of Jewish education in the city if more funding does not come from the organized Jewish community.

While other federations in North America are increasing their funding of Jewish education, AJCS actually decreased its allocations to the day schools by 40% between 1980-84, from $500,000 to $300,000, according to the report.

During that period, the schools' financial assistance program for low-income families increased by 68% to $2,299,200 from $1,361,511.

"If we feel that any Jewish individual has a right to obtain Jewish education then the community's share of the cost can no longer be maintained at 1.3% of the total schools' budgets," states the report, which has been presented to the AJCS officers. "The notion that no child shall be denied the right to a Jewish education of the highest quality implies a communal commitment for the financial aid required for its provision."

During the year 1983-the day school system were close to $22.2 million. The greatest share of The greatest share of its income came from the Quebec government, $10.7 million, while fees paid by parents amounted to almost $8.7 million.

Government grants rose 43% from 1979-80 to 1983-84, but overall expenses increased by close to 50%. Fees went up a whopping 60.8% over those years. The report deals only with operating costs; present or future capital needs are not covered.

Middle-class parents are carrying too heavy a burden by paying ever increasing fees to compensate for government grants which do not keep pace with inflation and for other people's children who are paying partial or no fees. "Parents resent paying more than the cost of educating their own child," says the report.

The report notes that the system of Jewish day schools in Montreal is unique among North American communities. According to the 1981 census figures, over 50% of Jewish students at the primary and secondary level are in day schools.

Over the past seven years alone, enrolment has increased from 6,225 students in 1977 to 7,179 students in 1984, despite a significant decline in the Jewish population of the province.

Financial difficulties are starting to undermine the efforts of the schools to maintain a high quality of education, according to the report. The schools have cut their expenses for programs and building maintenance to the minimum in order to balance their budgets.

The result has been that most schools either lack space or have been forced to neglect the upkeep of their facilities. "Their shabby appearance and meagre janitorial services have depressed the morale of students, staff and parents," as has the preoccupation with keeping budgets in line. Schools have had trouble attracting people to their boards because of the dreary financial situation, according to the report.

"In a consumer-oriented society, this has begun to have an adverse effect on the quality of education desired by both parents and staff. If the number of dollars given in financial assistance were used for educational purposes, the schools could easily improve the quality of the education being given."

The report notes that the Quebec government cannot be counted on to increase its share of the budget of the day schools. In fact, the report indicates, that source of income is more likely to decrease in importance in the future. As the general population ages, education will probably continue to decline as a priority for the government.

Quebec's subvention of Jewish schools is possibly unequalled in North America, but the largest part of that money goes toward the extra hours of French required, according to the report. Between 1974-84, French studies increased from 2.5 to 14 hours per week.

In any case, the grant increases in the last few years have not exceeded 1 to 2% per annum, while the schools' costs have steadily risen by at least 6% per annum. Teachers' salaries alone increased by 5%. (The average teacher's salary is now about $37,000.)

The fees have increased to the point that today "the price of a Jewish education is becoming too steep for most of the parent body." Requests from parents for financial assistance have increased and schools have already begun to reduce the number and amount of each subsidized student.

"This has already caused a reduction in the number of students in some schools and has a further effect on total revenue because each child lost represents a reduction in (government) grant money."

Fees today exceed the actual cost of education as the dollars needed for the schools' financial assistance programs are written into the fee.

Several sample letters from parents are included to illustrate the report's assertion that the community must shoulder more responsibility.

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Fail to attract Diaspora Jews

Tourism tops on Zionist agenda

By
SIMON GRIVER

JERUSALEM (WZPS)— Minister of Tourism Avraham Sharir describes tourism as one of the most important topics on the Zionist agenda. He does not expect Diaspora Jewry to emigrate to Israel in large numbers, but he is confident that many Jews who have not visited Israel in the past will vacation here in the future.

"Jews in the Diaspora should not see visiting Israel as a duty," Sharir told the World Zionist Press Service, "but simply as an enjoyable tourist destination with sunshine, fascinating historical and religious sites and beautiful landscapes.

"On the other hand it is one of the failures of the Zionist movement that 37 years after the establishment of the Jewish state only a fraction of Diaspora Jewry has visited Israel. In some years more German Gentiles come to Israel than American Jews. It's a fact that makes me ashamed."

Sharir sees two factors holding Jews back from taking a vacation in Israel. The first is an over-exaggeration of the tensions emanating from the security situation. Sharir feels that the world media has painted a distorted picture of the situation and that ultimately the streets of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem are much safer and freer from violence than the streets of most Western cities.

The second factor that Sharir cites is the image of Israel as a needy and poor nation — the image portrayed by the Diaspora fund raising appeals. In this sphere Sharir is optimistic about a change in the perceptions of overseas Jewry, especially in light of a rise in "missions" to Israel of Diaspora fund raisers who see for themselves and convey back to their communities the true picture.

Israel-Diaspora relations are important to Sharir who has spent many years in the United States. Between 1964 and 1967 he was the national director of the Jewish Agency's economics department in New York, and from 1970 to 1974 he served as economic attache at the Israel Consulate, first in Atlanta, Georgia and then in Los Angeles.

Sharir does not have stereotype sabra attributes. Born in Tel Aviv in 1932 and in spite of being soft spoken and courteous, he has nonetheless succeeded in the rough and tumble world of Israeli politics. A graduate of the Hebrew University's law school he is a member of the Israel Bar Association and a member of the Liberal Party, the junior partner in the Likud bloc. Sharir first became a Knesset member in 1977 and was appointed tourism minister in 1981.

Like so many Israeli politicians Sharir is an optimistic idealist but a tough talker when necessary. He hails the peace treaty with Egypt but is disappointed by the fact that Egyptian tourists are not allowed to visit Israel. "Without tourism there can be no real peace," he explains. "We must have open borders with people meeting each other face to face. This is the only assurance that there will never be war again."

Israeli tourism is going through a boom period now. The number of visitors to Israel during 1985 should top 1.4 million — the highest number ever, beating last year's record high of 1.3 million. It would appear that the depression in the tourist industry which was caused by the Lebanon war in 1982 has been left firmly behind.

But Sharir is not resting on his laurels. With some 100 million tourists visiting Mediterranean countries each year he is acutely conscious that the potential for increasing Israeli tourism is vast. "Tourism is one of the most effective ways that Israel can earn badly needed foreign currency," he says. "We have achieved marvelous results to date and through the same marketing strategy we will continue to attract more tourists."

Sharir is proud of the diverse nature of the tourists who visit Israel: from Christian pilgrims and sunseekers to kibbutz and archeological dig volunteers. However, closest to his heart are overseas Jewish visitors coming to see their homeland. He is particularly proud of the advertising slogan "Come to Israel, Come Stay with Friends."

"Israel's greatest asset is the warmth of its people," he asserts. "This slogan emphasizes that fact. It is not so difficult or expensive in this day and age for Diaspora Jews to get on a jet and fly to Israel. Most of them are going abroad anyway to Bermuda or Spain. If they come to Israel instead we can guarantee them a warm welcome and a vacation that they will remember."

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Choice between U.S. sitcoms, Itzhak Modai

Little money provides big bore on Israeli television

By
GLORIA DEUTSCH

JERUSALEM (JCNS) — With only one channel, and it being impossible to please all of the people all of the time and all Israelis any of the time, television is a rich and fertile source of our most heartfelt grumbling — a close second to the economic and political situation.

Although the programming is sometimes suspected of being planned by a group of elderly sadomasochistic manic depressives, it is actually the domain of the director, an apparently sane man working with a board of governors whose chairman Micha Yinon is directly responsible to the government - appointed director-general, Uri Porat.

The endless parade of imported American sitcoms and interminable Hebrew talk shows has nothing to do with the mental state of the people at the top — rather with a chronic shortage of money.

Until the arrival of a second — commercial — channel (still being discussed in the Knesset so it could take years) we will have to continue to swallow the indigestible diet of shows like Condo, Three's Company, The A-Team and such peak-viewing time high entertainment as Minister Itzhak Modai explaining why he's added another tax, or Ariel Sharon explaining why another factory has had to close down — and just happening to mention his new book.

Most of the financing comes from the licence fee — when it's paid — charged on the nation's million or more sets. In the past few years there have been some ingenious developments to permit a form of advertising for high-minded enterprises like the National Lottery (Mifal HaPayis), WIZO, the water company urging us not to waste water and the electric company urging us not to waste power. Such "service" broadcasts add to the coffers and can be quite entertaining.

An even newer idea is sponsorship whereby a company gets its name mentioned at the top and tail of a program and pays $3,000 for the privilege. We have this quasi-subliminal advertising to thank for quality programs like Jewel in the Crown and Abba Eban's Heritage as well as all the rubbish.

If there's nothing much on in Israel, you can always switch over to Jordan. The 10 o'clock news in English, although full of anti-Israel propaganda, is touchingly monarchist. Atom bombs have fallen on New York but the Jordan news will always begin with the doings of His Majesty the King. But there are genuinely engrossing programs like Playing Shakespeare or The Kennedys months before we get them, if ever.

Another "local" source, the Christian Middle East Television, beaming from just over the Metulla border crossing in Lebanon, is heavily evangelical, goes in for wholesome family entertainment and is often, mercifully, blotted out by atmospherics.

So unless you are one of the growing hordes of video owners, the only proper way to enjoy the telly in Israel is by understanding Hebrew. Then what seems like an endless blur of talking begins to crystallize into, for instance, Kolbotek, an excellent consumer program which has matured over 12 years from revealing price rigging to exposing, with the aid of hidden cameras, call-girl rings and wholesale cheating at gas stations. This is the Time is a chat show hosted by Ram Evron, an Israeli Parkinson, presenting an agreeable mix of local and visiting personalities.

Documentaries are also well done on Israel Television, like the world-class Pillar of Fire series, much of it made from archive film but put together brilliantly, and Second Look which deals with current affairs. Big musical spectaculars can be very slick and professional — remember Israel's Eurovision?

But to prove that we really are a nation of masochists, the most popular program is the News at 9 p.m. It is highly professional and besides showing disasters around the world gives us a goodly number of our own.

In fact, the real-life dramas are practically the only home-grown ones we get. Israeli-made television theatre hardly exists and when it does it's so bad one wishes it didn't — surely the ghastly Anashim BaMiluim about soldiers doing reserve duty was a Mossad plot to confuse the enemy about the true nature of the IDF. The series Near Ones and Dear Ones about a group of flat dwellers, was much better but that was made by Instructional Television, the rich cousin of Israel TV, financed by the ministry of education, which broadcasts from 8 in the morning to 6.30 in the evening.

Once, long ago, there was a wonderful program of political satire called Nikui Rosh (Cleaning the Head) with brilliant Israeli actors impersonating governmental clowns. They were not amused, however, and now neither are we: the program was removed.

Still, there is something for everyone. The children get their anthropomorphic butterflies, the teenagers their pop, the sports fans their three hours a week, the Arabs their hour-and-half every evening. Religion gets two programs a week plus a nightly reading from scripture.

On festivals the telly does its bit — Shofarot on Rosh Hashanah, lighting the Chanukah lights every night in a different ethnic tradition, practical jokes on Purim, Selichot — and they even tell you which day of the Omer it is, every night before the news.

If you can stay awake till midnight you will see the Israeli flag and hear Hatikvah to signal the end of programs.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, Israeli Television is a poor thing, but our own — and it's getting better all the time.

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Arts

Melodramatic mishmash fails to tell us much about rabbis

books

By
BERNARD BASKIN

The Congregation, by Rabbi Morton Levine with Hal Kantor. General Publishing, $27.95.

In recent years there has been a spate of novels about rabbis. Most of these have been embarrassing and wide of the mark. The Congregation is no exception.

Invariably, in these exciting accounts, an idealistic but vulnerable young man succumbs to a variety of temptations, including those of the flesh.

Rabbi David Benjamin, a Liberal cleric and for eight years the spiritual leader of a modest congregation in North Carolina, is on the side of the underdog. He ends up in jail when he marches in a union demonstration, and incurs the wrath of militant rednecks. Says the indomitable rabbi to the deputy sheriff, "No, I don't want to go to jail. But because you're going to stop me from going back to that mill, I don't have any choice."

He loses his job, but a rich and large congregation in Detroit beckons and David becomes "interim rabbi." A whirlwind of good works . . . he becomes an instant success.

Appearing before a congressional committee that is investigating Communist infiltration into labor unions, he walks out on the biased, witch-hunting hearing and achieves both satisfaction and notoriety.

Unhappily, you guessed it, the rabbi and his wife have a deteriorating marriage and when he succumbs to the charms of a beautiful WASP career woman the disconsolate Naomi commits suicide.

Before the novel comes to a close the reader is confronted with some more of David's problems: an unpopular judgment involving conversion and his misuse of temple funds earmarked for Israel in an attempt to save his brother-in-law from the rapacious Mafia.

The author is a Conservative rabbi, director of the Hillel organization at the University of Pennsylvania. This melodramatic mishmash won't tell you much about rabbis or congregations, but should have some appeal to the devotees of light romance.

* * *

Shoah, by Claude Lanzmann. Hurtig Publishing Co., $15.95.

Here is the complete text — words and sub-titles — of Lanzmann's extraordinary 9½-hour film about the Holocaust. It is an unforgettable oral history that brings together a full range of witnesses that Lanzmann found and induced to speak about their role in the Shoah.

The horror grows as one listens to a German bureaucrat describing how the railways charged holiday excursion rates to Jews being transported to the death camps; to Polish workers who tilled their fields only a few yards from the gas chambers; to townspeople from neighboring communities discussing their feelings then and now, to SS officers who supervised the camps and carried out their incalculable crime against humanity.

Lanzmann mingles hope, despair, terror and beauty in a unique and new way, presenting the Holocaust in its multidimensional depth and reality.

Simone De Beauvoir, who has written a laudatory preface, indicates that when the film is witnessed "we realize we have understood nothing. In spite of everything we knew, the ghastly experience remained remote from us. Now, for the first time, we live it in our minds, and hearts and flesh. It becomes our experience."

This book which does not depict the grisly or gruesome is all the more effective as it aids the reader in an act of creative imagination.

Stratford to issue John Hirsch Award as result of grant

STRATFORD, Ont. — Thanks to a $10,000 donation from the Mark Tanz Foundation, the Stratford Festival will begin issuing a new annual award named after its former artistic director, John Hirsch.

The John Hirsch Award will be presented each year to a member of the Young Company and will become incorporated as part of the festival's annual issuing of Guthrie Awards.

Also announced here were various appointments, all for 3-year terms, to the festival board of governors. Among them were Dr. Murray B. Frum of Toronto, also named to the execution of the board; Lois Berman of Montreal; Frederic Jackman of Toronto; and film director Norman Jewison of Toronto.

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Poetic nuances and subtle character studies

Out of Africa captures Dinesen's richly textured story

By
SHELDON KIRSHNER

TORONTO —

Out Of Africa, Sydney Pollack's new film, is timed for release to coincide with the centenary of the birth of Karen Blixen, whose pen name was Isak Dinesen.

One of Denmark's greatest writers, she is primarily known for several books, *Out Of Africa, Shadows on the Grass* and *Letters from Africa,* all of which are based on her experiences in Kenya from 1913 to 1931.

Until Sydney Pollack came along, no director had attempted to translate Dinesen's richly-textured works into a fullblown movie. It seemed impossible to convey cinematically the poetic nuances and the subtle character studies which are so much a part of Out Of Africa, now playing at Cineplex Odeon theatres.

But Pollack, who has made such films as *The Way We Were* and *Tootsie,* was not daunted by the prospect of attempting to recreate her world on the big screen. With the help of screenwriter Kurt Leudtke and actors Meryl Streep, Robert Redford and Klaus Maria Brandauer, Pollack has succeeded admirably.

Out Of Africa turns on the lives of three people — Karen Blixen (Streep), her husband Bror (Brandauer) and Denys Finch Hatton (Redford), her lover.

Blixen and Bror decide to leave the confines of Denmark for the open spaces of East Africa. There really isn't any explanation for their decision, but a viewer is left with the vague impression that they think they will find personal fulfilment in this remote corner of the world.

Their plan is to get married in Africa and run a dairy farm. Karen and Bror are not in love, but they like each other and are unconventional enough to try to bring it off.

Soon enough, Karen discovers that Bror is not a reliable partner in their joint enterprise. Contrary to their arrangement, he has invested her mother's money in a coffee plantation — a far riskier proposition in the highlands of Africa. And he shows himself to be a philandering and absent, if amiable, spouse.

Left all but on her own to manage their farm, Karen grows into the task. And she meets a mutual friend, Denys, an unattached white hunter, with whom she falls in love.

The three featured performers are unfailingly good.

Uncannily enunciating her words in faultless Danish-accented English, Streep draws a sympathetic and skilful portrait of a strong-willed woman whose dreams for contentment are ultimately dashed. Rarely has she looked so radiantly beautiful.

Appearing alternately boyish and worn, the tousle-haired Redford gives a low key performance as a distant, freedom-loving loner who cannot satisfy anyone but himself.

Fresh from his brilliant appearance in *Colonel Redl,* Brandauer is well suited in his role as a dissolute, but kind and honest, playboy. Sometimes, though, the Austrian actor sounds remarkably like Peter Lorre.

Out Of Africa, which is backed up by a rousing original musical score by John Barry, interspersed with the melancholy classics of Mozart, is more than a story of romantic entanglements gone awry.

Pollack composes what seems like an accurate picture of British colonial life in Africa, with its undercurrents of racism and class snobbery, and he delivers a stunning, elegiac ode to a magnificently scenic continent.

Out Of Africa is as lyrical as the book itself. And although it runs for a marathon 150 minutes, the passage of time is barely noticeable.

This is one of the better films of the year.

A scene from Out of Africa, with Meryl Streep and Robert Redford.

A Chorus Line like Broadway hit

TORONTO —

Richard Attenborough left quite an impression with his epic film, *Gandhi.* In a few brush strokes, he drew a compelling portrait of a vast sub-continent seething with social and political troubles.

In A Chorus Line, now playing at Cineplex Odeon theatres, he throws himself into a completely different challenge. Can he truthfully convey the frenetic, insecure world of show business while being faithful to Michael Bennett's, original Broadway smash hit?

It was incumbent on Attenborough not only to produce a bouncy musical, but to come up with a film with real, multidimensional characters.

With some reservations, Attenborough succeeds. A Chorus Line, which features the toe-tapping music of Marvin Hamlisch, takes a viewer behind the glittering stage, into the harsh arena of auditions.

More than 100 dancers, men and women, crowd into a dimly-lit New York theatre to win just eight places on the chorus line. In trying to please Zach, the hard, distant choreographer, they bare their souls.

Is this what it takes to make it on the Great White Way?

As Attenborough would have it, show business is demanding on the body and demeaning on the soul. But, if you hang on long enough, is is immensely exhilarating. And in A Chorus Line, he brings this sense of exhilaration to the screen.

By no stretch of the imagination is it a totally satisfactory film. Parts of A Chorus Line could have been consigned to the editing floor. But when it works, it works exceedingly well. S.K.

Advt. Advt.

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Arts

"Tropical thriller" Souvenirs at Factory Theatre

Sheldon Rosen will celebrate opening of 12th play

By
FRANK RASKY

TORONTO —
Sheldon Rosen will lift up a cup of cheer and celebrate two very special events in his life this New Year's Eve.

It'll mark his 15th anniversary to the very night when he left New York for Toronto as an anti-military conscientious objector with not a penny in his pocket, but his head full of dreams of somehow winning fame, fortune and happiness.

He'll also celebrate on New Year's Eve the opening of his 12th play he's had produced as a professional playwright.

It's the Shaw Festival's production at Toronto's Factory Theatre on Bathurst St. At Adelaide (864-9971) of *Souvenirs*, Rosen's "tropical thriller" about six characters forced to come to grips with their lives while vacationing on a South Sea Island.

So how far has Rosen gone in realizing the dreams of his life since he stepped across the border in the early hours of Jan. 1, 1970?

"I've achieved no fame and no fortune, but I've attained a lot of happiness by exploring the minds of characters I've created," said Rosen, sipping orange juice during a recent interview at The CJN newsroom.

He's a handsome, green-eyed 6-footer of 42, who calls himself "a moody daydreamer" and rejoices in his Jewish roots.

"Being Jewish means having a natural sense of irony," he says. "It means being able to say to yourself, 'I know my situation looks terrible, but if I stand over here and think about it, it also looks sort of funny.'

"In other words, it's the ability to watch yourself slipping on a banana peel and yet see the humor in it. It's the quality that's allowed us Jews to endure as survivors."

He endured his own worst survival period when he arrived in Toronto, a formerly successful TV director with degrees in psychology and communications, but with absolutely no job prospects here.

He reached the pits when he applied for a $55-a-week job distributing handbills.

"I made sure I got there at 6.30 a.m. before most other applicants had arrived," he says. "The guy in charge asked: 'You ever deliver handbills before?'

"I answered truthfully: 'No.'

" 'Too bad,' he said, rejecting me. 'We're only looking for *experienced* handbill deliverers.' "

Fortunately, a less demanding employer in the same boat — a draft-evading graduate of the University of Texas — hired him to distribute handbills.

He lived in a house near Eglinton and Avenue Rd. shared by 10 people who paid $75 a month for room and board.

He lived on hot dogs and other meagre fare, and for relaxation hung around the nearby public library where an amateur group staged plays.

"I felt I could write better plays than the crappy things we were doing," he recalls. "So I sat down and wrote *Love Mouse*, a 1-act comedy about my vain attempts to trap with cheese and a cardboard box the smart mice scampering about my room.

"They thought my jokes were funny. So when a director asked me to dash off another 1-acter that he could produce along with *Love Mouse* at the Poor Alex Theatre, I ad libbed the plot for another comedy called *Meyer's Room*.

"People paid to attend, so I felt I could begin calling myself a playwright."

Since then, Rosen has served as chairman of the Guild of Canadian Playwrights and co-founded the Canadian Playwrights' Co-op. "I felt I should give Canada something back," he says.

His most popular play has been *Ned and Jack*, about the relationship between the Broadway hack playwright, Ned Sheldon, and the hammy matinee idol, John Barrymore. It won a Canadian Authors' Association Award and was staged at the Stratford Festival.

In 1981, when actress Colleen Dewhurst produced and directed it on Broadway, Rosen moved back to New York to further his career.

It's been tough making a living in the Big Apple, acknowledges Rosen. In Canada, he got by as playwright-in-residence at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa and with the financial aid of three Canada Council and three Ontario Arts Council grants.

But in Manhattan, he's been working as a $15-an-hour proofreader from midnight until 10 a.m. checking the legal contracts for the law firm of Debevoise & Plimpton. By day, he writes plays.

"I feel most alive when I've probed deeply into a character," he says. "It's a terrific feeling, like getting a shot of adrenalin . . . a really great emotional reward.

"No, I'm by no means rich or famous, but I comfort myself with the thought that at least I have no mice running around my bedroom."

Playwright Sheldon Rosen: "I have no fame, no fortune, but plenty of emotional rewards from probing character."

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Zafer serves as string conductor

Europe loves Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra

David Zafer

music

By
RICK KARDONNE

David Zafer was the string conductor for the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra which recently gave its first Toronto concert at MacMillan Theatre.

He led the orchestra in Anton Arensky's Variations in a Theme by Tchaikovsky. As mentioned two weeks ago, Arensky was one of two prominent pre-revolutionary Russian Jewish composers. Ermano Florio and Eugene Rittich were the other two conductors.

The youth orchestra's debut European tour, in which violist Ellen Swartz participated, represented part of Canada's participation in the International Year of the Youth. The orchestrea went to England, Scotland and the Netherlands for six concerts from July 31 to Aug. 12.

Hailed for its "compelling, astonishing technical ability" by the Glasgow Herald, the orchestra's concerts in Aberdeen, Dan Bosch and Haarlem (the last two in Holland) were recorded for broadcast in Europe. It was also invited to give an additional concert at London's historic Inns of Court.

Several Jewish theme works (by Bloch) and a work by Oskar Morawetz were on the program for these concerts.

* * *

Meanwhile, as you read this, Toronto Symphony conductor Andrew Davis is in Israel as guest conductor of the Israel Philharmonic. When Davis returns, he will be interviewed for The CJN by this columnist.

* * *

Maureen Forrester was among those world-calibre singers teaching at an International Vocal Workshop held in both Toronto and Montreal earlier this month.

* * *

The promoters of Dudu Topaz's Canadian performance tour inform this column that both Toronto and Montreal shows were sold out.

* * *

While the 1985 Israel Chassidic Song Festival, staged to a sold out house recently at Adath Israel, was an improvement over previous years in that there was much more contemporary festival prize-winning material, its actual presentation was inferior.

But except for the last two medleys, the festival unfortunately reverted to the cardinal sin of Israeli shows in North America about a decade ago. This was an attempt, out of self confidence, to dress up the material in an American rock 'n' roll style rather than letting an authentically sensitive, pious chassidic atmosphere speak for itself.

The deafening volume of the blaring amplifiers and the hackneyed electronic-rock-keyboard orchestrations were completely inappropriate for the new songs. The best of these included 1985 first-prize winner Mi Yimalel (by performer Yitzhak Ben Melech and musician with the show Avner Chodortov), and Shomer Israel by Murit Hirsch (who also composed Oseh Shalom and wrote Bashanah Ha'-Abah and Abanabi).

Heavy keyboard block-chords, imitating a now passe American ballad style popularized by The Carpenters over a decade ago, destroyed the potential pious poignancy of such slow selections as Sol Zim's V'erastich Li Le'Olam.

Particularly embarrassing was the earnest attempt by two of the male performers to inject cornball humor between the songs. Only a few polite laughs throughout the entire show were evoked by this flotilla of lead balloons. A 50s rock spoof near the end of the first half entitled Reb Shmeel was not only insulting to the chassidic spirit per se but also derogatory to women in its caricature of the nagging wife. It was awful.

Only in the medley of Shabbat songs towards the end was the musical sensitivity conveyed as being confidently Jewish (featuring an inspiring set of Sephardi classics) as opposed to being ersatz-American rock 'n' roll shtick. Only then did the audience display genuine enthusiasm.

Bard of storytellers Williams gives marvelous 1-man show

By
FRANK RASKY

TORONTO —

This is a word of advice to those who love storytellers:

You needn't have any qualms about spending an evening with Emlyn Williams merely because the Welsh actor, playwright, novelist, recitalist and 1-man theatre has now turned 80.

True, he may have put on a pound or two and his hair is snowy white. But his wit remains sharp, his feeling for imagery vivid, and his voice — ah, that incomparable, magical voice! — it's as lyrical and resonant as ever.

In other words, the bard of storytellers is in top form, and you're herewith urged to catch him while you can while the marvelous octogenarian is holding forth in his 1-man show until Jan. 5 at the Bayview Playhouse (phone 481-0084).

This time around, he's not impersonating, as he has for the past 35 years, that other omnibus literary showman, Charles Dickens.

Rather, in *Dylan Thomas Growing Up*, he is reincarnating gloriously the language, humor and antic spirit of his fellow Welsh bard, who died a boozy death at the age of 39 after a poetry reading in New York three decades ago.

Displays sublime artistry

Williams wisely has not attempted to imitate the poet declaiming set pieces such as *A Child's Christmas In Wales*. Thomas — sounding like a church organ in full throttle intoxicated with purple prose — has enshrined that classic himself inimitably in a great record album.

Instead, Williams has cobbled together what he calls a "patchwork" of anecdotal yarn-spinning from Thomas's lesser-known works the likes of *Portrait of the Artist As a Young Dog*.

Without makeup, using no props except a single chair under a single spotlight, and dressed in a simple gray serge suit, he recreates a stageful of dotty and fantastical characters. They come alive thanks to Williams' extraordinary miming skill and Thomas's equally brilliant imagery.

Emlyn Williams

Some of the more memorable lines that had this reviewer enraptured included these glittering similes: "He was smiling like a razor"; "Her skin was smoother than a moth's nose"; and "He had a spade-shaped face you could dig a ditch with."

They're dazzlers all, but they require Williams' sublime artistry in character portraiture to come off the printed page and spring alive onstage. It's a bravura performance, a wonderful holiday gift for lovers of storytelling.

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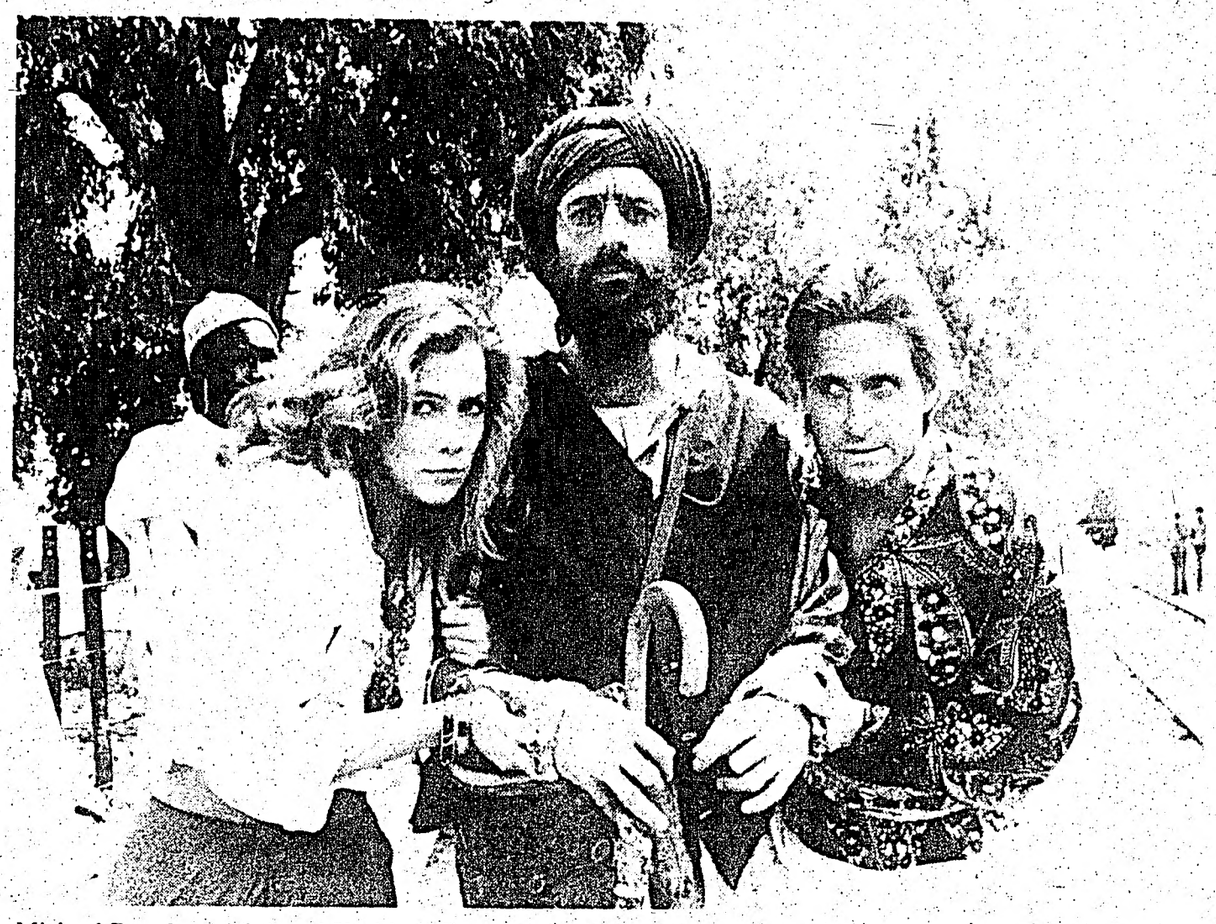
Arts



Michael Douglas (right) and Kathleen Turner joins Avner Eisenberg in the role of Holy Man on a Moroccan trek in The Jewel Of The Nile.

Madcap sequel

See Jewel for holiday romp

By
FRANK RASKY

TORONTO —

If you want to forget your troubles and go on a wonderfully meshugena holiday romp across the desert wilds of Morocco, you might well consider accompanying Hollywood's newest fun couple, Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner.

They're the co-stars of *The Jewel Of The Nile*, the 2-hour madcap sequel to last year's escapist vagabondage, *Romancing The Stone*.

If you saw their 1984 romantic coupling, you'll recall that Turner played the role of Joan Wilder, a bashful yet adventure-hungry novelist who writes swashbuckling romances.

She teams up with Douglas, who portrays a soldier of fortune named Jack Colton, and they go off on a jaunt through the jungles of South America.

This time around, Joan and Jack go on a perilous — and hilarious trek — in North Africa. The plot is a piece of nonsense centred around an evil sultan named Omar and a search for a mysterious jewel.

Director Lewis Teague wisely ignores the fluffy story line. Instead he concentrates on the wisecracks and stunts dreamed up by co-screen writers Mark Rosenthal and Lawrence Konner.

The action is non-stop loony as our hero and heroine crash through roofs, dangle from trains, tumble from mountains, escape from savage tribes, careen about in a pilotless F-16 fighter plane, and wind up in a climactic scene grappling atop a flaming stadium with the sinister Omar.

In other words, it's a funny parody of the daredevilry that used to thrill youngsters at the Saturday afternoon movie serials dating back to *The Perils Of Pauline*.

My choice of the funniest scene: Jack's tubby Brooklyn sidekick, Louis de Palma (who played the tyrannical dispatcher in the TV comedy series, *Taxi*) joining a caravan of nomads who play funky rock music on their ghetto blasters while swaying aback their camels.

But the most charming scene-stealer is Avner Eisenberg (an American comic juggler, who was a Broadway hit in his 1-man show, Avner The Eccentric), who plays the role of an amiable Holy Man ultimately revealed as personifying the true jewel of the Nile.

Inevitably, *Jewel Of The Nile* will be followed by a series of sequels. What next? This reviewer can hardly wait to see *Joan And Jack On The Moon*.

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Parades, dragon dances in San Francisco

Chinese New Year's a week-long event

By JAMES MONTAGNES

SAN FRANCISCO — Come here in early February and you will be able to see and perhaps participate in the biggest Chinese New Year celebrations on this continent.

The Chinese New Year is on Feb. 9, and this is the Year of the Tiger. It will be a week-long celebration from early in the month to the actual day, with parades, dragon dances, gourmet Chinese cooking, a Miss Chinatown pageant and the Golden Dragon Parade.

San Francisco has probably the biggest Chinatown area of any North American city and it will be ablaze with color and festivities.

It is never too hot or too cold in San Francisco. The temperature varies from 8 to 24 C (45 to 75 F). On most evenings a light sweater can be worn because of the cooling breezes from the Pacific Ocean.

This is a city for sightseers. Probably most popular with first time visitors are the famous cable cars, which have been restored and completely renovated mechanically. The cars are the last of their kind in the world and have been operating since 1873.

They operate on a cable under the steep streets, the gripman or motor man using a lever which grips onto the cable and hauls the cars uphill or downhill at 9½ miles (15 kms.) an hour. While the cars can carry up to 100 passengers, they are often loaded down with many more people who hang on from all sides.

In contrast to the cable cars is the modern BART — Bay Area Rapid Transit — system which takes you from San Francisco to nearby Oakland, Richmond and other communities at 80 miles (128 km) per hour.

You can also get about the hilly city by streetcar, bus or taxi, and there are numerous ferries and cruise boats which you can use to go from one part of the region to another or just to go sightseeing.

The city is famous for two bridges which span the bay and the waters leading to the Pacific Ocean. The Golden Gate Bridge is considered one of the most beautiful bridges anywhere. You can drive or walk across the mile-long bridge to look at shipping 740 feet (about 240 metres) below. From the north end of the bridge you head for the famous Redwood fir trees, where you can ride among the tall timbers on an old lumber railroad. Under the south end is a scenic shoreline trail with old fortifications, a variety of museums, art galleries and an Aquatic Park.

Campus noted for Nobel Prize winners

The other famous bridge is the Oakland Bay Bridge, 8½ miles (13 km) long, the world's longest steel bridge. It is a double-decker structure with five lanes of traffic on each level. Its suspension, cantilever and truss bridge sections are connected with a tunnel.

Near Oakland is the Berkeley campus of the University of California, noted for its output of Nobel Prize winners.

Since the sea and fishing have been main reasons for the city's development, don't miss the Maritime Museum and Historic Park, with its museum shaped like a ship, and hundreds of artifacts from old sailing vessels, shipwreck relics and ship models.

There are a number of old sailing ships to explore — some almost 100 years old. And visit Fisherman's Wharf, the vast dining complex with its variety of fish restaurants and fishing boats coming and going with fresh fish.

Chinatown is a 24-block enclave, teeming with fancy restaurants, shops filled with Oriental wares and a museum to Chinese life in the United States. Not far away is a modern Japanese complex, with Japanese cultural and health features, shopping, theatres and eateries.

If you are a history buff you can visit the Wells Fargo History Room at 420 Montgomery St. and you will see how couriers operated during the California gold rush of just over a century ago. There is also a Bank of California Money Collection at 400 California St. with gold and silver ingots and old western currency.

The city is filled with shops where you'll find the most expensive items — from jewelry to furs, from paintings to antiques.

Visit some of the hotels on some of the high hills where luxury abounds.

In the region about the city are some of the finest wineries on the west coast and a Wine Museum at 633 Beach St.

Synagogues, community centres, kosher restaurants can be found not only in San Francisco, but also in nearby Oakland, Berkeley, San Jose, and other regional communities.

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Looking forward to the playoffs

Pal Hal finally finds a friend in Leafs' masseur

By
PAUL LUNGEN

TORONTO —

Going from Edmonton Oilers to Toronto Maple Leafs may not be the average hockey man's dream come true, but for a particular Soviet emigre, things couldn't have worked out any better.

Arkady Tevlin doesn't shoot or handle the puck, he's not a coach or a scout, but he is an integral part of the Leaf organization.

The 39-year-old native of Moscow is one of the Leafs' trainers, specializing as a masseur and therapist.

And he couldn't be happier to be in Toronto working for Harold Ballard, the curmudgeonly owner Tevlin calls "a great man."

Tevlin joined the Leafs at the start of the 1981-82 hockey year after spending the 80-81 season with the Oilers. Before that he worked with Moscow Dynamo of the Soviet elite league when that team was led by national team members Valeri Vasiliev and Alexander Maltsev.

Getting ready for a road trip. Arkady Tevlin is happy to be part of the Maple Leafs, even if it means endless hours of travel. [Graphic Artists photo]

Tevlin's impressive credentials get even better. From 1974-77, he was a trainer on the national team, and he made the long journey to Canada for the 1974 summit series against the WHA version of Team Canada. That squad featured the likes of Bobby Hull, Gordie and Mark Howe, J.C. Tremblay and Ralph Backstrom.

He got his start by completing a course at the Institute of Sport and Physical Culture in Moscow.

For superstitious types, they'll be hoping the success at hockey that seems to follow Tevlin will repeat with the Leafs. The team couldn't get a bigger booster than Tevlin himself.

If you were to scratch him, he'd probably bleed Maple Leaf blue. He makes no bones about his feelings for the team and he exudes optimism.

"The attitude (on the team) is very healthy," he says. "We deeply feel we can make the playoffs. It's just a matter of time. We believe we can do it."

Arkady's role on the team during the playoff hunt is the same as it was back in Russia and Edmonton. Still, for a Canadian squad, the type of work he does is somewhat unique.

Tevlin says that, to the best of his information, only the Oilers and Leafs have massage therapists like himself on the payroll, and he was the first to introduce it to the League five years ago.

What Tevlin does is provide therapeutic massage to aid injured players heal more quickly, as well as perform preparation massages before games and practices, to loosen and warm up muscles for better performance.

Arkady's repertoire also includes rehabilitation massage to relax players, usually after practices.

While that part of the trainer's role in Russian hockey has now been adapted to Canada, it's doubtful NHL teams will take up other Soviet practices, like the strenuous regimen demanded by Soviet clubs.

The hockey season in the Soviet Union begins July 1, Tevlin says, with one month of off-ice training. The teams there play only between 40-50 games each season, he adds (compared to the NHL's 80-game season), but there's a lot less travel in the old country.

As you might expect, the 1972 tournament peaked interest in Canadian hockey for the average Russian fan, and in Moscow you can get a magazine called Football and Hockey which features an article about NHL-brand shinny in each edition.

Arkady, his wife Bella and son Matthew left the Soviet Union in 1979, saying they wanted "to be free, to live in a free society."

After one year in Edmonton and "a great experience with my first Canadian team," the Tevlins moved to Toronto "for family reasons."

Bella got involved in her past occupation of dentistry, and Arkady rather quickly got a job with the Leafs.

Arkady credits Ballard with giving him his opportunity in Toronto. "I more than highly appreciate his generosity," he says. "He's a great man with a great heart."

Even more than his gratitude to the Leaf organization, Tevlin says "I'm so happy to live in Canada. I guess I adjusted myself here. We chose the right country."

Many in Arkady's sports-minded family still make their homes in Russia. One of his brothers, David, is a professional basketball coach for a junior level team in Moscow.

His other brother Mischa (Mikhail) is an interpreter who once played professional hockey in the 1950s-60s for .Ska Kuybeshev, a team in Siberia.

After Siberia, the Toronto Maple Leafs must look pretty good to a hockey man.

* * *

What's happened to the Winnipeg Jets? After making great strides last year, they appear to be floundering this season.

The phenomenon is certainly not new. Just a few years before, St. Louis Blues made a move to join the top echelon of NHL clubs, finished the regular season near the top, but then fell off badly in subsequent years.

Los Angeles, Vancouver and Detroit are other teams which improved in one season, and suffered setbacks soon after.

Gary Laforet, The CJN's business manager and an avid hockey fan, may have come up with a suggestion that addresses the situation.

He recently described for The CJN's Friday hot stove league his ideas about changing the draft formula to reward the teams which show improvement — not just those which do badly.

His idea would see the teams draft, as they do now, in reverse order of finish for the first round. But, at the start of the second round, for selections 22 through 25, one team from each division which improved its points total most from the previous season would each get an additional draft choice.

Not only would that reward quality and improvement, it would create an incentive for good teams to continue putting out during the regular season, and not merely coast once they grab a playoff spot.

It would also solidify the improvement they've made, helping them both on the ice and in terms of fan support.

And the new draft format would avoid the syndrome you have now where teams in the middle of the pack don't get the benefits some of teams which consistently finish below them do.

B'nai B'rith hockey scores for the week of Dec. 19.

A DIVISION

TFL Whalers 4 — Canyon Brokers 2
TFL Teammates 3 — Mixed Association 3
Forestdale Big Steel 2 — LMOL Hawks 2

Player of the week was Randy Fien of the TFL Teammates.

B DIVISION

TFL Fantasticks 6 — Maccabiah Red Wings 4
TFL Beaver Canoes 8 — TFL Plumbers 1
TFL Paris Kitchens 7 — Don Mills Axemen 2
LMOL Reds 9 — Forestdale Sting 4
TFL Feathers 3 — Canyon Kings 0
Upper Canada Bruins 7 — TFL Satelites 1

Player of the week was Jeff Friedman of the LMOL Reds.

C DIVISION

TFL Refiners 2 — Maccabiah Grinders 1
TFL Flood 8 — Canyon Panthers 0
Don Mills Wasters 3 — TFL Hav A Kars
Manor Metro Angels 3 — North York Habs 1
TFL Flyers 1 — Maccabiah Black Hawks 1
Maccabiah Weiss Guys 7 — LMOL Printers 1
LMOL Furriers 4 — Yorkdale Gunners 3
Canyon Ultacuckers 6 — Maccabiah Toe Biz 0

Player of the week was Larry Krupsky of the North York Habs.

Soccer player gets the boot following racist remarks

TEL AVIV —

The Israel Football Association has ousted defender Shlomo Kirat from the national soccer team for making racist remarks against Arab teammates, the Jerusalem Post reported recently.

"I am disgusted by Kirat's statements against his teammates Zahi (Armeli) and Jimmy (Rifat Turk), and he will not be invited to play again on the national team," said Yosef Mirimowitch, the national team coach.

Kirat met later with Pinhas Goldstein, chairman of the Knesset Sports Committee, and was told of the damage his comments had caused to Israel's image.

Kirat said afterwards: "It seems I said things I shouldn't have, and I'm sorry about that." However, Kirat, a Meir Kahane supporter, did not retract his statements.

Kirat said he would telephone Turk and Armeli to apologize.

The IFA and Mirimowitch were reacting to Kirat's public statements that Armeli and Turk, who are Arabs, should not play for Israel because they are not fully committed (CJN Nov. 28).

Their presence has a negative influence on the play of Jews on the team, he said.

"I state without hesitation that Armeli and Turk, in their long careers with the national team have always given of their best, and have brought honor to Israel football, both by their talent and their commitment. They were among the best players in the recent World Cup qualifying games," Mirimowitch said.

Armeli and Turk each scored more goals than any other player.

IFA chief Shaul Sviri said last week that Israel soccer teams had always been chosen according to players' talents, regardless of their nationality or religion. He stressed Israel football is a blend of Jewish and Arab teams, and also of teams in which there were both Jewish and Arab players.

Armeli added he had received an apology from Kirat's Rehovot club, Maccabi Sha'arayim.

Kirat's home club Sha'arayim is to take no steps against him.

Olympic Committee chairman Yitzhak Opek said the committee would not tolerate the kind of racist pronouncements made by Kirat. He said it is foreign to sport and would have to be removed.

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OBITUARIES

Baker, Samuel on November 26, 1985, late of Castlefield Avenue.
Bender, Harvey on November 28, 1985, late of 177 Linus Road, #403.
Darvas, Regina on December 4, 1985, late of 105 Charleswood Drive.
Emanuel, Beatrice on December 3, 1985, late of 4 Goldfinch Court, #402.
Freedman, Rebecca on December 1, 1985, late of Lincoln Place Nursing Home.
Goldberg, Esther on December 8, 1985, late of 640 Lauder Avenue, #209.
Goldwater, Bernard on November 29, 1985, late of 2550 Pharmacy Ave., #1007.
Greenspoon, Max on December 8, 1985, late of 6 Manor Haven Road.
Hamer, Samuel on December 5, 1985, late of 4979 Bathurst Street, #401.
Handler, Murray on December 3, 1985, late of 11 Arleta Drive, #708.
Hecht, Issy on December 8, 1985, late of 92 Baycrest Ave.
Heller, Samuel on November 27, 1985, late of Harold & Grace Baker Centre.
Horovitz, Yocheved on November 27, 1985, late of 590 Deloraine Avenue.
Jessel, Albert on December 2, 1985, late of 6 Baytree Cres.
Litvack, Sam on November 29, 1985, late of Baycrest Hospital.
Marder, Eva on November 28, 1985, late of 54 Prue Avenue.
Pasternak, Eugenia on December 5, 1985, late of 155 Marlee Avenue, #1511.
Resnick, Evelyn on December 7, 1985, late of 1650 Sheppard Ave. E., #407.
Rosenbaum, Samuel on November 29, 1985, late of 84 Hillmount Ave.
Rubin, Lilly on November 28, 1985, late of Baycrest Hospital.
Szollosi, Elemer on December 6, 1985, late of 3555 Bathurst Street.
Wilson, Morris on December 9, 1985, late of 4383 Bathurst St., #1202.

Steeles-College Memorial Chapel

Wasserman, Rose on 12/1/85, late of 204 Glen Cedar Rd., Toronto.
Ryterband, Jacob on 12/2/85, late of 135 Antibes Dr., P.H.#6, Toronto.
Janasz, Mark on 12/1/85, late of 6 Breen Cres., Will.
Winters, Alan on 12/3/85, late of 36 Llanewood Dr., Aurora.
Klein, George on 12/5/85, late of 39 Richview Rd., #1603, Tor., Ont.
Ehrenreich, Helen on 12/5/85, late of 4455 Bathurst St., #301, Dwns., Ont.
Lipchitz, Sidney on 12/5/85, late of 87 Playfair Ave., Tor., M6B 2R1.
Rapoport, Roslyn on 12/5/85, late of 240 Heath St. W., #1503, Toronto.
Samuel, Saul on 12/6/85, late of 429 Walmer Rd., Tor., Ont.
Gold, Morris on 12/7/85, late of 5935 Bathurst St., Toronto.

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OBITUARIES

Cooper, Samuel on 12/7/85, late of 100 Myers Rd., Cambridge.

Cronish, Percy on 12/7/85, late of 100 Canyon Ave., Toronto.

Ashley, David on 12/7/85, late of 11 Oakhurst Dr., Toronto.

Shapiro, Samuel on 12/8/85, late of 18 Cedarcroft Blvd., #1106, Will.

Bernstein, Esther on 12/8/85, late of Cheltenham Nursing Home, Toronto.

Waisbord, Nancy on 12/9/85, late of 101 Colvin Cres., Toronto.

Lampel, Cecil on 12/9/85, late of 400 Walmer Rd., Toronto.

Richtenberg, Malka on 12/9/85, late of 85 Derech Ha Sholom, Tel Aviv, Israel.

Minnie Sherman on 12/9/85, late of 10 Glen Edith Dr., Toronto.

Greenblatt, Joseph on 12/9/85, late of Cottage Hospital, Uxbridge.

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An aerial view of the ancient port city of Acre. The new section of the city can be seen in the background.

Acre gives example of Arab and Jewish "mutual tolerance"

By HERB KEINON

JERUSALEM (WZPS)— The ancient city of Acre can be proud of more than its breathtaking view and rich history; it can also be proud of the tolerance that marks relations between its Arab and Jewish residents, in recognition of which Acre recently received the Council for a Beautiful Israel's Shield of Tolerance award.

According to Reuven Ben Zvi, Haifa bureau chief for the Israeli newspaper Ma'ariv, co-sponsor of the award, Acre received the award because "it is a mixed city where mutual tolerance, understanding and respectful dialogue reign between the two segments of the population."

Located on the Mediterranean, just 15 miles north of Haifa, Acre is a city of 40,000, with Arabs making up about one-third of the population. Due to its geographic position, every army waging campaigns in Syria and Eretz Israel have found its occupation vital. With echoes of the past ringing off reconstructed ruins and restored buildings, Acre is today Israel's most successfully integrated city.

"Both communities in Acre recognize the dangers of extremism," said Egyptian-born mayor Eli di Castro, "and that only through co-operation and negotiation will they benefit from the peaceful development of the city." The negotiating takes place in the meeting hall of the Acre city council with the participation of the 15 city board members, three of whom, including the city's deputy mayor, are Arabs.

According to Assadi Mohammed, an Arab professional working for Acre's social welfare department, the importance of an Arab presence on the city council should not be underestimated. "This sends a clear signal that it is through dialogue, not violence, that grievances are resolved," he said.

Another important signal, Mohammed added, is the Israel-Egypt peace treaty. "Whether or not this peace treaty is as 'hot' as some would like is unimportant. What is important," he stressed, "is a treaty exists; that an Arab government has cooperated with Israel. It also gives Israeli-Arabs the go-ahead to cooperate with Israel.

Peace treaty brought change

"The problem we used to face is that in the eyes of the Israelis we were not seen as fully trusted citizens, and in the eyes of the Arab world — of which we feel a part — we were seen as traitors. Since the signing of the peace treaty we can no longer be considered traitors, because Egypt also cooperates with Israel."

It is exactly this cooperation that di Castro is trying to foster in Acre. "The main thing is to develop personal contact," he said. "Personal contact is the most efficient way of reducing tension and hostility."

One neighborhood, which houses both Jewish and Arab residents, is going a long way to further this goal, as are the mixed and highly successful Jewish-Arab pre-schools. Furthermore, the city is embarking this year on a program which will bring Jewish and Arab students together after school hours. The goal of all these programs, di Castro said, is the breakdown of negative stereotypes.

Does di Castro share the concern of some religious leaders who worry that such Jewish-Arab contact could lead to intermarriage? "Look, we're not asking anybody to forfeit their identity. We don't want that, and the Arabs don't want that either," di Castro stated. "all we're trying to do is create an atmosphere where the residents of Acre understand the people they have to live with."

The mayor continued: "If there is to be peace in Israel both Arabs and Jews have to realize something. The Arabs have to realize that the Jews are here to stay; that we are not going the way of the Crusaders, the Turks or the British, and we Jews must realize that Israel is part of the Middle East.

"This means we have to understand the Arabs who surround us. Understanding them means speaking their language, being familiar with their culture, and knowing them personally.

"The Torah teaches us that we must treat the stranger in our midst with respect," di Castro said. "This is what we're trying to teach our children." And it is precisely the implementation of this message which led to the selection of Acre as the recipient of Israel's 1985 Shield of Tolerance.

Business Outlook

"Rugged" replaces "runt"

Nobody kicks sand in this male model's face

By
FRANK RASKY

TORONTO —

Allan Fine (better known by his stage name of Allan Savage) says with a grin that he fits the classic bodybuilding cliche of the skinny runt that the strongarm kids loved to bully.

He was the victim they always picked on while he was attending Associated Hebrew Schools in Toronto.

So what did he do? No, he didn't apply for one of those Charles Atlas bodybuilding courses.

Rather, he began hefting the barbells that his father, computer programmer Jerome Fine, kept in the basement of their home in the Bathurst-Finch area.

What's more, he began pumping iron seriously three or four times a week in the hour-long weightlifting workouts, at the Jewish Community Centre.

And, as the old saying goes, just look at him now.

At 22, he remains a relatively short fellow of 5-ft.-8, unlike most other male models who usually tower at least six feet in height.

But the rippling muscles and football player's physique of his rugged, 165-pound body have brought him fame as a pinup in the Toronto Sun's current Sunshine Boy calendar.

And his virile good looks have also earned him a pretty penny.

He's one of the top models for Kristen Models Inc., whose posing for just three commercials recently netted more than $3,000.

And he's a walking advertisement for Sun-Care Tanning Centre at 558A Yonge at Finch (225-8813) which he and a partner co-founded two years ago with their joint $20,000 savings and which grossed $100,000 last year.

Allan, who was given the stage name of Savage by a previous agent for "boudoir appeal," acknowledges with a grin that he has no problem attracting the ladies.

"But I'm too busy building my body and my businesses to date any girl on a regular basis," he says.

In any case, he says he doesn't want to be known simply as a "male hunk," like Don Johnson of the *Miami Vice* TV series.

"If I must be tagged with a male hunk label," he says, "I'd prefer to be known as The Hunk With The Jewish Brain — The Body With A Business Mind."

Jewish traditions are important to Fine. He had his bar mitzvah at Beth Tzedec Synagogue, and he proudly displays a golden chai hanging from a chain on his manly chest when posing for photographers.

He says he's a "health food nut," and he takes seriously his 2-year apprenticeship as a movie makeup artist after studying at Toronto's Edith Serei Skin Care School.

He was the associate makeup artist for such

Allan Fine

Canadian films as *Terry Fox*, *Dead Zone* and *American Werewolf In London*. For the low-budget movie, *The Miles Ahead*, he says they paid him peanuts, but it was fun being flown to Club Med in Mexico for the 2-week shooting.

He appreciates far more the easy money to be made from TV commercials. "Counting residuals, you pick up at least $1,000 for 12 hours of posing, which I consider a snap."

Typically, for Kraft Calorie-Wise Dressing, he merely had to flex his biceps while bicycling and lifting weights. For Diet Pepsi, he took home $1,300 for pretending to apply a jackhammer to the top of a giant can of the beverage.

His big dream is to pose for men's cologne ads or ripple his muscles as a cover boy for magazines. "You can make megabucks from that," he says.

He confesses, though, that the joy of pumping iron is a sensational reward in itself.

"I get a natural high from working out with weights," he says. "Your muscles expand. Your skin is taut. You feel the blood coursing through your veins and cleansing out your system. You feel punch drunk with power. Boy, nothing can beat it!"

First for Jerusalem

Timesharing project begins

JERUSALEM —

The bear's market in Jerusalem real estate is firmly answered this month by the launching of the capital's first timesharing project.

Jerusalem Timesharing Ltd. provides weekly and monthly units at the newly opened Knesset Tower Hotel, near the Knesset and the Israel Museum.

While timesharing projects are operating successfully in Tel Aviv and Tiberias (and others are now being built in Netanya and Eilat), Jerusalem Timesharing is the only scheme to give Jerusalem visitors all the advantages of hotel living at modest cost in the privacy of home.

Jerusalem Timesharing is a joint project of a Boston real estate company and the Knesset Tower Apartment Hotel's construction firm, Eilon Brothers of Jerusalem.

It offers timesharing units in a limited number of the hotel's comfortable and well-appointed 2-room apartments with kitchenette — all fully furnished down to silver candlesticks for the Sabbath table.

Among Jerusalem Timesharing's selling point are:

— Sight-seen buying — apartments are ready for occupancy.

— Knesset Tower Hotel facilities — from swimming pool, health club and tennis courts to restaurants and maid service — are all part of the Jerusalem Timesharing package.

— Owners are free to use, lend, rent, sell, give away or bequeath their timesharing apartment, as they are in the possession of the owners forever.

— Jerusalem Timesharing units can be exchanged in an international network in 500 resorts worldwide.

Jerusalem Timesharing Ltd. sees its primary markets among both frequent visitors from abroad and Israelis living outside the capital.

Purchase prices range from $2,800 per week to $10,000 per month (plus VAT) depending on size and season, with Jerusalem Timesharing's first purchasers welcomed with a year of free maintenance.

For further information, please contact Seth Sprecher at (02) 243984/5.

1-year mortgage demands outpace longer terms

TORONTO —

Demand for 1-year mortgage terms significantly outpaces that for 3- and 5-year terms. According to the Royal LePage Canadian Mortgage Market Bulletin, this highlights expectations that mortgage rates will decline in the coming months.

"In recent weeks, approximately 50% of all new mortgages and 60% of renewals were for 1-year terms. However, only about 25% of borrowers are taking 5-year terms," says Royal LePage's residential mortgage market spokesman.

Consumer demand for short-term money may, itself, contribute to lower mortgage rates in future, says the Royal LePage spokesman.

"Strong demand for short-term mortgage costs lending institutions less; investors are more willing to deposit funds in Guaranteed Investment Certificates (the main source of mortgage funds) for short terms and will accept a lower return as their funds only are committed for a short period. This can lead to lower mortgage rates."

Royal LePage's commercial mortgage spokesman, Bill Anderson, notes that development activity in all commercial sectors is strong, contributing to a very active mortgage market.

"The supply of funds for all terms is adequate, with the availability of 10 - 20-year money at less than 12% attracting an increasing number of long-term borrowers."

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Mother plans memorial for her deceased son

By
JEFF ROSEN

TORONTO — A mother's love for her dead son has prompted her to plan a memorial in his honor.

Nesia Borenstein said that when her son Sam left for Israel in 1977, he was to have studied at kibbutz Yawneh for a 1-year term. However after nine months in the Holy Land, in May 1978, the 19-year-old drowned while swimming in the Golan Heights area.

This coming May, eight years after the accident which took her eldest son's life, Mrs. Borenstein will arrange a memorial in Sam's honor.

Borenstein said she will be bringing Rabbi Meyer Berglass, the former spiritual leader of Shaarei Tefillah and dean of Israel Institute of Technology for Women, to Toronto for a public lecture on aliya and settlement in Israel.

Funds raised from the lecture will go towards building a library in Israel in Sam's name, she said.

At the same time, Borenstein said she wants to sponsor a Shabbaton for Bnei Akiva and plans to organize a contest for Hebrew day schools in Toronto. She said the contest will involve grade 2 students, who will write stories about Israel, and students from grade 9 and up, who will create projects about settlement in Israel.

She explained she chose this focus for the contest as Sam wanted to settle in Israel.

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